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K-State Keepsakes

Anthony R. Crawford
Kansas State University

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**K-STATE
KEEPSAKES**

ANTHONY R. CRAWFORD

K-State Keepsakes

Anthony R. Crawford

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Introduction

Anthony R. (Tony) Crawford joined K-State as university archivist in 1983, the year the university marked its 120th birthday. During the ensuing 31 years he has employed his talents as an archivist, researcher and writer to preserve for the K-State community the stories that comprise our history and heritage. Two of Tony's works are particularly notable in this regard. The first is *K-State Keepsakes*, a series of posts appearing on KSU Libraries' "Talking in the Library" blog between 2006 and 2013. The posts describe events and relate stories touching on various aspects of university history and feature documents and images held in university archives collections. The second is *Generations of Success: A Photographic History of Kansas State University 1863-2013*, co-authored with Clifford Hight. The centerpiece publication of K-State's sesquicentennial celebration, *Generations of Success* was formally added to the Libraries' collection as its 3 millionth volume. In early 2015 Tony will be retiring from his position in the Morse Department of Special Collections, a department he was instrumental in creating. In his honor and in hopes of preserving his stories and extending them to future audiences, his colleagues have collaborated to re-release the 34 posts of the *K-State Keepsakes* series in this e-book format.

Julia R. Pearce, K-State's First Librarian

[1st in the Keepsakes series, originally published March 29, 2006]

This marks the first in a series of “K-State Keepsakes” brought to you by the University Archives! We hope to share a piece of history about Kansas State University that may include something about the library. The content will vary from focusing on one event, person, or milestone, to including a variety of facts, such as a list of historical events that occurred during a particular month or year.



Julia R. Pearce

Our first “Keepsake” is in recognition of Women’s History Month (March). In September 1894, Julia Roselle Pearce was appointed the first full time librarian at K-State, which included an appointment to the college faculty! This was the same year that a new “Library and Agricultural Science Hall” was completed (the building was renamed Fairchild Hall in 1902) and the publications moved from a room in Anderson Hall. Until then faculty members (all men!) were assigned by the president to oversee the library in addition to their teaching responsibilities.

Miss Pearce was from Manhattan and graduated from K-State in 1890. Before becoming head librarian, she was employed as a stenographer in the office of President George Fairchild, 1891-1892, and assistant librarian, 1892-1894. The Board of Regents granted her a six week leave of absence in 1895 “to attend a library school.” Pearce served as librarian until 1898 when she was replaced by Helen Wescott. There have been 16 heads, directors, or deans of the K-State Libraries since Pearce was appointed of which Dean Lori Goetsch is the latest. More information about the [history of K-State Libraries](#) is available on the Archives web site. Visit us on Hale's 5th floor, Monday-Friday 8am-5pm.

Basketball Madness

2nd in the Keepsakes Series, originally published April 10, 2006.

With “March Madness” and bracket dreams turning into April sadness and upset screams (for some) in the NCAA championship, it is appropriate for this edition of K-State Keepsakes to provide a glimpse of the rich basketball tradition at Kansas State University!

Women’s basketball at K-State can be traced to the spring of 1901 when two groups of female students from calisthenics classes played each other outdoors with the “Purples” defeating the



1910 Women's Basketball Team

“Reds,” 9-2. Several hundred students watched the contest making it the first public basketball game at K-State according to Julius Willard, long time college historian. As women’s basketball grew in popularity on the intramural level, college administrators required that all games be played in the women’s gymnasium, now known as Holtz Hall. As early as 1902, women students requested the faculty to allow intercollegiate games but they refused “on a close vote.” Nonetheless, women continued to compete among themselves in such venues as

physical education courses and in games between classes.

Despite the interest and popularity, it wasn’t until the 1968-1969 season that women’s basketball was added as an intercollegiate sport with Judy Akers becoming the University’s first coach. It is interesting to note that the Wildcats were selected to play in the [Women’s National Invitation Tournament](#) (WNIT) at the end of their first season! K-State won its first Big 8 title in 1975-76. Akers fought for entitlements under [Title IX](#) that mandated equality in women and men’s athletics. She eventually lost her job but remains as the school’s winningest coach with a record of 206-94. Lynn Hickey became the second coach in 1978-79 and K-State made its first trip to the NCAA tournament in 1981-82, advancing to the Elite Eight. The next year Pricilla Gary became KSU’s first Kodak All-American. In 1983-84 the Wildcats made their third straight appearance in the NCAA tourney and K-State received its first top 10 ranking at 7th in the nation. Following a series of coaching changes, Deb Patterson took over as K-State’s eighth coach in 1996-97, the year the Big 12 conference was created. The Cats made it to the NCAA tournament at the end of that season for the first time in 10 years and in 2003-04 were co-champions of the Big 12. To date, the two most celebrated players during Patterson’s tenure have been Nichole Ohlde (Big 12 Player of the Year in 2003 and 2004, and two time first team All-American) and Kendra Wecker (Big 12 Player of the Year in 2005, and a consensus All-American). Ohlde and Wecker became the 3rd and 4th Wildcats drafted into the Women’s National Basketball Association, with Wecker being the program’s highest draft selection at number 4 in 2005. Both were selected to the Big 12 Women’s Basketball 10th Anniversary Team making K-State the only school with multiple selections. Shown here conducting

research in the University Archives during her senior year, Wecker excelled in the classroom as well as on the basketball court.

In 2005-2006, the Wildcats continued K-State's tradition as one of the outstanding teams in the country by winning the Women's National Invitation Tournament, defeating Marquette, 77-65!

The first men's game at the college took place in 1902 with K-State losing to Haskell, 60-7! There were "chaperons" rather than coaches until W. W. Melick became K-State's first coach in 1905, the year the team won its first game by defeating Minneapolis High School! In 1911 the team moved into its first permanent home, Nichols Gym, the same year that Mike Ahearn, K-State's second coach, retired after five seasons (he also coached football and baseball and held several faculty positions during his years at K-State).

Although the team had outstanding teams and players during the early years, it was not until 1948 that K-State made its first appearance in the NCAA tournament. Coached by [Jack Gardner](#), the team reached the final four where it lost to Baylor. The small capacity of Nichols Gym, combined with the success of the team, led to the construction of Ahearn Field House where the first game was played on Dec. 9, 1950 (a victory over Utah State). In 1951 the Wildcats fell to Kentucky in the finals of the NCAA championship. [Tex Winter](#) replaced Gardner in 1954 and the Wildcats reached the Final Four on two occasions, 1958 and 1964, while Winter was at the helm. Led by All-American Bob Boozer, the Cats ended the 1959 season ranked number one in the country only to lose to Cincinnati and Oscar Robertson in the regional finals. Tex Winter became known for his "triple-post offense, which he implemented in the professional ranks when he became an assistant coach for Phil Jackson and the Chicago Bulls (Michael Jordan) and later the Los Angeles Lakers (Kobe Bryant). Winter's offense became so popular that he wrote the book, [The Triple-Post Offense](#), published in 1962 by Prentice-Hall. The copy in University Archives is inscribed by Winter and includes the comment, "It has been a real pleasure for me to coach at Kansas State—A great school." Cotton Fitzsimmons replaced Winter in 1969, leading the Cats to a Big 8 title in 1970 before taking over as coach of the Kansas City Kings in the NBA.

During the 1970-86 seasons Jack Hartman became K-State's winningest coach with a record of 295-169 that included three Big 8 titles and nine post-season appearances. The University Archives received the personal papers of Coach Hartman in 2006 and a [description of his collection](#) is available.

Lon Kruger succeeded Hartman and led the Cats to four consecutive trips to the NCAA tournament (1986-1990). The last game in Ahearn Field House took place in the spring of 1988, a victory over Missouri, and the men and women's team began playing games in Bramlage Coliseum during the



Jack Hartman and Players

1988-89 season. Dana Altman replaced Kruger and took K-State to the NCAA tournament during the 1992-93 season followed by another appearance in 1996 when the team was coached by Tom Asbury. Jim Woolridge coached the Wildcats for six years before he was replaced by Bob Huggins on March 24, 2006 to become K-State's 21st head coach. The Wildcats have taken 22 trips to the NCAA tournament where they reached the Final Four on four occasions.

We hope that you've enjoyed this trip through K-State's basketball past. Go Cats!

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Sources in the University Archives used for this issue of K-State Keepsakes include the following: Women's and Men's basketball media guides and programs, Manhattan Mercury, Kansas State Collegian, records of KSU Sports Information and Intercollegiate Athletics, Jack Hartman Papers, Photograph Collection, and Vertical Files

Graduates

3rd in the Keepsakes series, originally published May 17, 2006.

A blast from the past...

With May being graduation month, it's time to take a look at the graduates of K-State! The college opened in 1863 with 52 students, 26 men and 26 women, followed by the first graduating class in 1867 when 5 students, three women and two men, earned degrees. After spring commencement 2006, approximately 191,000 students will have graduated from K-State!

Did you know? The first:

- to receive a PhD, Hugh S. Carroll in 1932 (chemistry)
- black male graduate, George Washington Owens (1899)
- first woman, [Minnie Howell](#) (1901)
- to become a college president, [Ernest F. Nichols](#) (1888), Dartmouth College in 1909
- elected to the U. S. Congress, Rollin R. Rees (1885)
- child of a graduate to receive a K-State degree, May H. Bowen (1896), whose mother, Emma Haines, was a member of the first class, 1867
- first death among the alumni, George L. Platt (1878), who died the same year he graduated!

In the last 143 years, countless graduates have made significant contributions to their respective fields, a few are recognized below (sorry if your favorite isn't listed, this is a random sample and a "K-Stater" must have received a degree to be included!).

Government. Current U.S. Senators from Kansas, Pat Roberts ('58) and Sam Brownback ('79).

Entertainment. [Jerry Wexler](#) ('46), co-owner of Atlantic Records in the 1950s who coined the phrase "rhythm and blues"; [Gordon Jump](#) ('59), actor; Velina Houston ('79) playwright & screenwriter.

Education. [Milton S. Eisenhower](#) ('24), first native Kansan and alumnus to serve as K-State president (1943-1950); [John Slaughter](#) ('56), president of Occidental College, 1988-1999.

Military. Richard Myers ('65), former Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Journalism. Clementine Paddleford ('21), food editor; [Pete Souza](#) ('79), White House photographer for Ronald Reagan.

Business. [Paul C. Fisher](#) ('39), Fisher Pen Co. and inventor of space pen for NASA; Neil Vander Dussen ('55), retired president of SONY.

Athletics. Olympians in track include Thane Baker ('53) and Steve Fritz ('93); baseball, [Earl Woods](#) ('56), first black player in Big Seven Conference (now Big 12) and father of Tiger Woods; professional football, Veryl Switzer ('54), [Steve Grogan](#) ('75), Gary Spani ('78), and numerous others from the Bill Snyder era; professional basketball, [Bob Boozer](#) ('59), [Mitch Richmond](#) ('88), and

[Kendra Wecker](#) ('05); professional golf, [Jim Colbert](#) ('64); and current Big 12 Conference Commissioner, Kevin Weiberg ('78).

The Manhattan Train Depot, Teddy Roosevelt, and K-State

4th in the Keepsakes series, originally published June 12, 2006.

Completed in 1901, the [Union Pacific](#) train depot in Manhattan remained open to passenger trains until 1971 and freight trains quit stopping in 1984. The station deteriorated until government officials, preservation and historical organizations, and individuals raised funds to have the structure restored. Now owned by the City of Manhattan, the depot was rededicated as a facility for community and private events on June 3.



Manhattan Train Depot, 2006

Included in the depot's notable history is [Theodore Roosevelt](#)'s visit on May 2, 1903 during a "whistle stop" tour of the United States while serving as the country's 26th president. As soon as the train came to a stop at the station, the K-State battalion formed a cordon around the end of the train where TR was to speak from a platform on the rear of the last car. Included in the large gathering were many K-State students

and faculty, the college band, and battalion (photograph courtesy of the University Archives). Before he began his formal remarks it was reported in the Students' Herald that Roosevelt said, "stop that infernal band." If he did make the comment, "it was not said as a slur at our band but only as a request that he be allowed his fifteen minutes to talk..." before the train had to depart to its next destination.



Roosevelt's Whistle Stop Visit, 1903

Much of his speech was directed to the K-State students, including the following:

I want to say a word especially to the students. It is always a pleasure to be greeted by the student body. You go out into the great world with a peculiar weight of responsibility upon you, because it largely depends upon how you handle yourselves as to the esteem in which education will be held by the community at large. If you make the privileges you have serve as an excuse for not working as hard, not doing as good [at] work, not getting down to the ground and working up, you will merely discredit yourselves, but you will discredit those who have not had your advantages. If, however, instead you feel that they have made an added burden of responsibility, that they made it more incumbent upon you to show that you profit by the advantages you have had, then you will reflect credit not merely upon yourself, but upon those who founded and keep up institutions of learning, such as this.

In closing he gave the following advice to all. "I believe in play and I believe in work. When you play, play hard, and when you work, do not play at all." A full transcript of Roosevelt's speech is available on the Kansas State Library website.

As TR was completing his remarks, the locomotive bell sounded to remind him of his precise schedule. He bowed and the train pulled out towards the west as the spectators cheered.

K-State Student Union: Celebration and Controversy!

5th in the Keepsakes series, originally published August 22, 2006

As K-Staters return to their Student Union this fall, they will enter a building that opened its doors 50 years ago in 1956. Although a relatively new building considering the first structure on campus was built in 1873 (Farm Machinery Hall, razed in 1963), the union as a concept was discussed in the early 1920s in conjunction with the building of Memorial Stadium, but dropped due to lack of funds. In 1938, 76% of the ballots cast by students on the issue of a union supported a \$5.00 per semester fee beginning in 1941 for the purpose of constructing a student union. Also that year the Board of Regents approved locating a union south of Engineering Hall, now Seaton Hall. World War II postponed the process.



Union under construction

Two barracks were obtained in 1947 and placed in an area that is now the south Union parking lot to give students a place to snack and socialize. However, the means by which to make a new structure a reality remained in limbo until 1951 when President James McCain made a union a top priority in new building construction. This was followed by the formation of a [Union Governing Board](#) in 1953 and an increase in the student fee to \$12.50 in 1954 to continue the financial commitment made by the

students 16 years earlier. Designed by [Charles Marshall, Sr.](#), the State Architect and a 1927 graduate of K-State, the \$1.65 million, 110,000 square foot facility opened on March 8, 1956. [The Four Lads](#), nationally known recording artists, played the first dance, and [12 O'clock High](#) starring Gregory Peck was the first movie shown, with tickets costing 25 cents.

Lost in the celebration of the Union's historical milestone this spring was the fact that the architectural design that was announced in the early 1950s was not popular among many architecture students and several faculty because it continued to replicate the designs of the past (they were not opposed to having a union, only the design). A pamphlet that circulated on campus and articles in the Collegian during the fall of 1951 said as much. In response, [Merrill A. Durland](#), dean of engineering and architecture, informed his faculty that it was improper for any of them to publicly criticize the college or the state architect who was responsible for the design. The circumstances surrounding the administration's reaction to the disapproval of the building's design caused many to believe intellectual and academic freedom were being challenged. The situation abated, however,

when President James McCain assured everyone that Durland, as well as Paul Weigel, head of architecture, had no intention of curtailing freedom of speech.

Ironically, in the spring of 1952 it was learned that four of the architects who criticized the union design would not be allowed to return in the fall. While three of them held temporary appointments, assistant professor Earl Layman, who was at the end of his probationary period, was not retained. The circumstances seemed to indicate that intellectual freedom was in jeopardy at K-State. However, in the long run the controversy improved relations between the administration, faculty, and students because the unfortunate incident had a positive impact by emphasizing the importance of academic freedom on campus. Nonetheless, improvements in the climate did not have time to materialize before students and faculty brought Frank Lloyd Wright to speak at K-State a few months later. He chided K-State and its architecture by stating, “Habituation is the death of imagination...That’s what’s ugly about this town—the habit started, and you can’t get rid of it.”



In spite of this bumpy beginning, the design of the building remained unchanged, the Union was constructed, and its programs and services grew along with the student population. A 40,000 foot expansion was completed in 1963 and the 14th anniversary of the Union in 1970 coincided with the opening of a second addition that included a bookstore and Forum Hall.

Over 80 years after a union was first given serious consideration, it is estimated that over 10,000 people frequent the Union on a daily basis. Happy 50th anniversary K-State Student Union!

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Sources in the University Archives used for this Keepsake include: Kansas State University: A Quest for Identity by James Carey; “Rediscovering K-State’s Past: The Student Union Case” by Philip Meyer (Class of ’52); From Concept to Creation: The History and Memories of Your K-State Student Union; photograph collection; and newspaper articles and ephemera found in the Vertical File-Union.

Meet Anderson Hall

6th in the Keepsakes series, originally published September 12, 2006

This edition of the *Keepsakes* series is devoted to K-State's most recognizable architectural symbol, Anderson Hall. Because of financial constraints the structure as we know it was completed in three sections, the north wing in 1879, central portion (including the tower) in 1882, and the south wing in 1884. Originally referred to as the main college building, it was named Anderson Hall in 1902 after John A. Anderson, the second president of the college who served from 1873-1879. Anderson was elected to the U. S. Congress and later served as U.S. [Consul-General](#) to Egypt. He died in England, the year the building was dedicated, while on his way back to the United States from Egypt.



Anderson Hall, 1910 or '11

Because the building draws such attention to John Anderson, many often mistake him as the first president of the college. However, that honor goes to Joseph Denison, the only president who did not have the opportunity to occupy the building. He was selected as president when the Kansas State Agricultural College was established in 1863 and left office in 1873 long before the hall was constructed. Another common belief is that Anderson Hall is the oldest existing building on campus, but that distinction goes to the central section of the Engineering Shops completed in 1875. That structure is located just west of Hale Library and the Coffman Commons, and is now known as [Seaton Court](#).

When completed, the north wing of Anderson Hall contained classrooms, the president's office, and the [college library](#) that occupied the northeast corner on the main floor (it moved to what later became Fairchild Hall in 1894). In the spring of 1879 an article in *The Industrialist*, the college newspaper, had this to say about the new library:

On the first floor...[is] the large library room with its antiquated volumes and Congressional globes. To be sure, there are some fine books there, but they are mainly such as would suit only a Rip Van Winkle sort of a Regent or student. We did not see even so much as one late dictionary or encyclopedia; it looked as though the Regents, or some other body, were afraid to let the students know what the world was doing in the age of progression.

The central section contained a chapel with a sloping floor until it was leveled for other uses. In 1920 the area became a recreation center. In 1919 a canteen and barber shop were installed in the basement and were in operation until 1924. An ad in the 1920 *Royal Purple* described the fixtures in the canteen as including a "Sixteen foot white Carrara glass soda fountain, white opalite tables, oak

lunch counter, marble show cases, French bevel plate-glass mirrors. Electrically equipped.” The college bell that rang in the tower was received as a gift to the original Bluemont Central College in 1861. An electrically operated carillon was installed in 1966 and the bell remained in the tower until 1995 when it was removed and placed on permanent display along the [sidewalk west of Bluemont Hall](#).

When the south wing was completed in 1884, two porches were added on the east face of the building between the two wings and the central section. They were enclosed in 1945 and turned into offices by workers that included German prisoners of war.



Anderson Hall, 1885

Among the classes held in Anderson during the early years were English, drawing, mathematics, and practical agriculture. Rooms for domestic science classes included a kitchen laboratory and sewing room.

Over the years Anderson Hall has shown its adaptability and functionality by accommodating many types of offices and departments to serve the needs of the administration, faculty, and students, but

the attractiveness of the exterior has remained constant. It was placed on the [National Register of Historic Places](#) in 1980 and continues to stand as a proud symbol of Kansas State University.

More photographs and information about Anderson Hall are available on our web site created and maintained by Special Collections staff.

The Truman Capote Connection

7th in the Keepsakes series, originally published November 2, 2006

In Cold Blood by Truman Capote was published in hardback by Random House in 1966 after it was serialized in *The New Yorker* the previous year. The best seller, focusing on the murder of the Clutter family in [Holcomb, Kansas](#), continues to inspire books and movies. Two of the more successful by-products are *Capote: A Biography* (1988 with paperback editions in 2001 and 2005) by George Clark, and the film, [Capote](#) (2005), that was nominated for five academy awards, including best actor in a leading role won by [Philip Seymour Hoffman](#).

In spite of this notoriety, few are aware of Capote's connection with K-State and Manhattan during and after the writing of *In Cold Blood*. This relationship began soon after the death of the Clutter family in 1959 when Capote decided to do a piece for *The New Yorker* magazine on the gruesome event. Recognizing that it would be difficult for him to arrive in the small community to interview residents about the murders without assistance from others to pave the way, he went to his publisher, Bennett Cerf, for advice. As it turned out, Cerf, the co-founder of Random House, had recently visited K-State to give a lecture and meet with English classes. He considered James McCain, the president, a friend as a result of the time they had spent together in Manhattan. When Cerf called McCain to ask if he knew the Clutter family and if one of their writers could visit him on the way to the murder site, McCain responded, "The Clutters were my close personal friends, I know everybody in Garden City" (the seat of Finney County, not far from Holcomb). When Cerf informed McCain who the author was he responded, "Truman Capote? Coming to Kansas?" McCain told Cerf if Capote would spend an evening with the English department he would "...give him letters to half the people in Garden City." Cerf accepted the invitation for Capote!

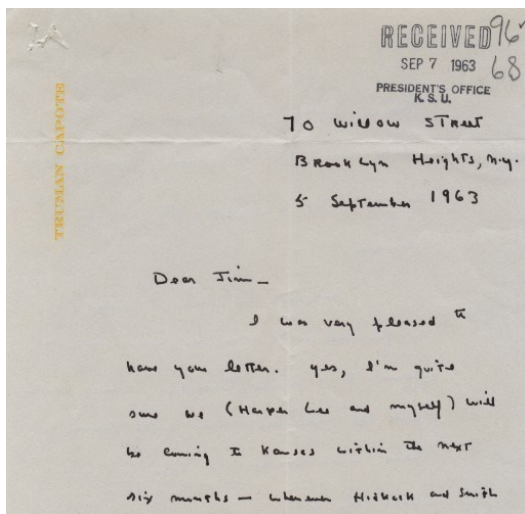
Capote arrived in Manhattan on November 19, 1959 only four days after the murder! He was accompanied by his longtime friend, Harper Lee ("Nelle"), the author of *To Kill a Mockingbird* (slated for publication the next year) to help with the endeavor. President McCain arranged for a luncheon in the K-State Union that included mostly people from the School of Agriculture who had known Herbert Clutter. Earle Davis, chair of the English Department, also attended. Cerf recounted how McCain told him that when he met Capote he was wearing a pink velvet coat. After Capote announced, "I bet I'm the first man who has ever come to Manhattan, Kansas wearing a Dior jacket," McCain replied, "I'll go you one better, Mr. Capote. You're probably the first man or woman who ever came to Manhattan wearing a Dior jacket."

According to Davis, Capote and Lee stayed at the [Wareham Hotel](#) where he went to pick up Capote for an evening in the Union Ball Room with members of the English Department. When Davis arrived at the hotel, Capote invited him to his room for a drink and pulled a whiskey bottle out of one of two trunks he brought with him in case he couldn't buy liquor in Kansas, as he had been told. Arriving at the Union wearing a florid scarf, pink shirt, bright orange red jacket, and button-shoes with turned-up toes, Davis' apprehension about Capote's drinking, clothes, and mannerisms soon dissipated as he used stories about literary figures in New York, and other topics, to charm the

group. According to the account that McCain gave Cerf of Capote's visit, when Capote and Lee left the next morning for Garden City, "the entire [English] faculty got up to see them off. Mrs. McCain and I got up too."

In an article he wrote for the Manhattan Mercury in 1984, "Memories of Capote," Davis doesn't mention other visits to Manhattan by Capote in 1959 or later (Capote died in 1984). He states that after Capote left town that morning in 1959, "he never stopped by on his way back." Local lore has it that Capote spent a summer with Davis in his house at 1711 Fairchild Ave. working on his book, but that cannot be substantiated. It would appear that Davis would have mentioned this residency in his "memories" piece (and it is difficult to imagine Capote staying in Kansas for an extended period!). Davis' son, Charles, does not recall his parents ever mentioning that Capote stayed in the family home, although he does remember hearing that Capote did stay in the Wareham Hotel but it is unclear if this was during his visit in 1959 or at a later time. One reason the book was not completed and published prior to 1966 was the fact the two murderers were not executed until April 15, 1965 after spending five years on death row in Lansing, Kansas. Written in a literary form Capote called "the non-fiction novel," bringing the crime to a close was an essential part of the book.

In addition to visiting Kansas shortly after the Clutter family was murdered, Capote had other occasions to visit the state during the writing of the book and for the filming of a movie that opened in 1967. Bill Brown, editor of the [Garden City Telegram](#) at the time the book was written, and later a professor of journalism at K-State, recalled that Capote was in Garden City "off and on for six years." This included a return shortly after *In Cold Blood* was published to attend a reception in his honor at the public library, but not before giving a reading to 3,500 students at the University of Kansas! He was followed by representatives of NBC news who were filming a story, "Capote Returns to Kansas." It is not known if he stopped in Manhattan.



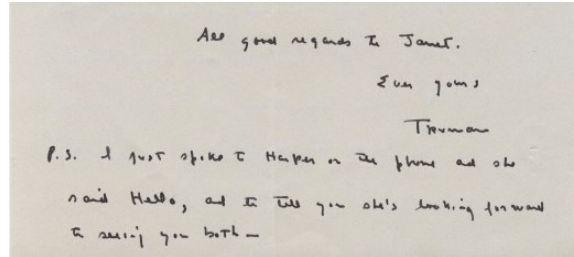
Opening of Capote Letter

To date, evidence does not exist to prove that Capote made other visits to Manhattan, but it is likely that he did. According to letters between Capote and McCain in the University Archives, the two remained in contact for several years. The correspondence reveals the desire by both parties for Capote to come to Manhattan. In one letter, Capote explains that he had to leave [Garden City] sooner than expected and could not come to Manhattan, and in another he states that he will be coming to the state "within the next six months" and that he would be "happy to meet anyone you wish" but he wasn't "equipped to address a dinner," perhaps a reference to his experience at K-State in 1959! Capote's letters also show his kindness towards Mrs. McCain, one ending with "All good wishes to Janet." It is clear that Capote valued their friendship

and the assistance that McCain gave him while writing *In Cold Blood*. Among the few individuals that he singled out in the book's acknowledgments, "Dr. James McCain, President of Kansas State University," is listed first.

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Sources: *James A. McCain Papers, University Archives*; *In Cold Blood: A True Account of a Multiple Murder and Its Consequences* by Truman Capote; *Capote: A Biography* by George Clarke; *At Random: The Reminiscences of Bennett Cerf*; "Journalism Professor Remembers Meeting Capote," *Kansas State Collegian*, August 29, 1984; "Memories of Capote" by Earle Davis, *Manhattan Mercury*, September 2, 1984.



Closing Words of Capote Letter

“Fire!”

8th in the Keepsakes Series, originally published January 12, 2007.

“Fire!” recognizes the destructive blazes that have occurred at K-State since its founding in 1863. As one can see by looking at the photographs, the fires were spectacular and the importance of all the buildings involved makes their destruction or damage significant events in the history of the university.

The most high-profile fire in K-State’s history involves Nichols Hall, originally known as Nichols Gym. Campus unrest was common in the 1960s and 1970s (e.g., the shootings at Kent State University and the burning of the Kansas Union in Lawrence), and the gutting of Nichols by fire, and its subsequent reconstruction, is K-State's most visible reminder of those times. The blaze occurred on Friday the thirteenth, 1968, but it took 17 years for Nichols Gym to rise from its ashes to become Nichols Hall!



Nichols Hall, 1968

The fire in Nichols Gym was the result of arson. Although it was believed that those responsible could be identified, there was not enough evidence to bring charges. Housing the departments of military science and music (and two swimming pools!), the fire completely destroyed the interior and contents of the building leaving only the exterior walls. When the university administration recommended razing the structure that was built in 1911, large numbers of students, faculty, alumni, and others, were very demonstrative in their objections, thus, “The Castle

Crusade” began to save Nichols. This version of campus unrest included trips to Topeka by students to meet with the governor, and other officials, on behalf of preserving the building. The remains of Nichols were spared the wrecking ball as the result of everyone’s collective effort. Nonetheless, funds and plans for rebuilding Nichols remained relatively dormant until the early 1980s when Nichols Hall was constructed to house the departments of computer science and speech communications, theatre and dance, as well as a theater (but no swimming pools!). The dedication of the new structure occurred in 1985. The students’ role in saving Nichols was recognized by the

incorporation of the mural “Student Achievement” in the main foyer.



President's House 1886-1895

Described in the order in which other fires occurred, the following buildings have been severely damaged or destroyed since 1863.

People are aware of the President’s House that is located south of Justin Hall. Completed in 1923, William Jardine (and his wife Effie Lane Jardine) became the first K-State president to reside there.

However, the first house built for the president of the college was actually constructed in 1885 during the administration of George Fairchild, K-State's third president! Standing in the approximate location of Holton Hall, it was struck by lightning and burned in April 1895, destroying all of George and Charlotte Fairchild's belongings and personal library



Holtz Hall, 1900

Holtz Hall, north of Anderson Hall, was erected in 1876 to house the department of chemistry. A fire in 1900 destroyed the interior and a large cupola and row of windows on the roof. As shown in the photograph, students assisted with fighting the fire and saving the contents of the building. The structure was renovated as a women's gymnasium and served in that capacity until Nichols Gym was completed in 1911. It was not until 1963 that the building was named in honor of Adrian A. Holtz who served as an advisor to students, assistant football coach, professor of sociology, and secretary of the YMCA during his 36 year tenure.

Today the building is home to [Career and Employment Services](#).

Perhaps the most spectacular fire in K-State's history destroyed the building known as Denison Hall, or the old chemistry building, in 1934 (this is not to be confused with the Denison Hall that was located south of Hale Library and razed in 2004). Constructed in 1902 and named for Joseph Denison, the first president of the college, it housed the departments of chemistry and physics. The chemicals in the building fed the flames and caused a pyrotechnics show that reminded onlookers of a volcano (see photograph). Located in the area of Eisenhower Hall, Denison was not rebuilt; however, the building was replaced by Willard Hall in 1939.



Denison Hall, 1934



Burt Hall, 1946

Burt Hall was completed in 1923 for the college of veterinary medicine and named after James H. Burt who served as head of the department of anatomy for many years. A fire destroyed most of the interior in 1946. The structure was rebuilt and most of the veterinary medicine programs moved to Dykstra Hall when it was completed in 1955.

Waters Hall, on the quad north of Hale Library, was completed in three stages; the east wing in 1913, west in 1923, and center in 1952. On August 25, 1957, the east wing was destroyed by fire of an unknown origin. Named after Henry J. Waters, the

sixth president of K-State, that section of the building was used for agronomy, milling, and animal husbandry. The wing was rebuilt after considerable efforts to raise funds for the reconstruction. Shellenberger Hall was erected to the east in 1960 for feed and milling technology.



Waters Hall, 1957

proved to be inadequate. On January 15, 1965, a fire of suspicious origin destroyed the structure and its contents that included an organ from the Wareham Theater downtown, band instruments, and musical scores. It was



Shell of the Auditorium, 1965

Although not as spectacular or destructive as the other fires, a blaze in Anderson Hall is best known for what could have been. During the early morning hours of August 20, 1993, the tower of the south wing of Anderson Hall was struck by lightning. A student, Craig Goodman, who happened to be working in a nearby building, spotted the flames and quickly reported the fire. Structural damage was kept to a minimum but water damage to the three floors of the south wing was substantial and amounted to over \$1 million. The strength and time of the lightning strike, along with the composition of a 19th century structure, could have been devastating to Anderson Hall and the university (the fire resulted in numerous lightning rods being placed on the roofs of university

Prior to the completion of K-State's first Auditorium in 1904, a chapel in Anderson Hall served as an assembly hall. The new Auditorium, with a seating capacity of 2,000, served K-State for many years but by the late 1950s it



K-State's Auditorium

determined that the fire was deliberately set and two arsonists were arrested and convicted. The K-State students were members of a "Burn the Barn" group that had posted signs on campus ridiculing the Auditorium's condition. The building featured an enclosed circular slide on the exterior of the building that served as a fire escape (see photograph)! McCain Auditorium was constructed in approximately the same location in 1970. In the meantime, the fire in Nichols Gym in 1968 once again destroyed most of the university's musical instruments and related material, which led to the popularity of "The Wabash Cannonball" at K-State because it was the only sheet music available to the band at the next athletic event!

buildings). The south wing of Anderson Hall was the last of the three construction phases that completed the building; the north wing in 1879, center in 1882, followed by the south in 1884.

Hopefully, with the advent of modern alarms, sprinkler systems, flame retardant building materials, and fire-fighting equipment, there won't be a repeat of the past when numerous fires changed the architectural landscape of the university.

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Sources: University Archives Vertical Files and photograph collection; Kansas State University: A Walk Through Campus (1992), by Emil Fischer.

The College Bell

9th in the Keepsakes series, originally published February 9, 2007

What better way to “ring in the New Year” than with a keepsake about the College Bell! People on campus, and nearby, are familiar with the sounds that resonate from the tower of Anderson Hall through an electronic operated carillon, but that has not always been the case. When the original Bluemont Central College opened at the northwest corner of Claflin Rd. and College Ave. in 1860, a bell was sought for the tower to announce the beginning and dismissal of classes. Bluemont College While traveling in New England to raise funds for the College, Isaac Goodnow, one of Bluemont’s founders, was able to convince Joseph Ingalls, a 77 year old “venerable and noble philanthropist,” to contribute \$250 for such a purchase (“\$150 in the spring and the balance in a few months”). As part of the agreement, Goodnow promised Ingalls that his name would be engraved on the bell. Subsequently, Goodnow made arrangements with A. Menelly’s Sons of the West Troy Bell Foundry in New York to manufacture and transport a bell to Kansas. Weighing 513 pounds, the bell arrived by train and wagon and was raised to the top of the Bluemont College building on December 14, 1861, adorned with the following inscription: “Presented to Bluemont College, Manhattan, Kansas, by Joseph Ingalls Esq. Swampscott, Mass 1861.”

After Bluemont College was transferred to the state in 1863, and renamed Kansas State Agricultural College, Farm Machinery Hall was constructed in 1875 on what is now the K-State campus. Classes, along with the bell, were moved to that location (the building, in the vicinity of Cardwell Hall, was razed in 1963). The bell was relocated to the tower of Anderson Hall when construction on the central section was completed in 1882 (see photo taken in 1882 before the south wing was completed in 1884). For 83 years the bell was rung by employees of the college to announce classes, events, and special occasions (when and why the bell tolled varied over the years). The bell had a history of receiving uninvited visitors who wanted to leave graffiti or play pranks, such as wrapping cloth around the clapper so it could not be heard or turning the bell upside down and filling it with water (once a fire had to be started beneath the bell when the water froze!). The most notable episode occurred when five members of the class of 1905 (including Harry Umberger who became Dean of the Division of College Extension in 1919) played a “clapper caper” and took it from the bell. According to college lore, the next morning was the only time the bell rang late after a custodian climbed the tower to bang on it with a hammer! Another clapper was installed but the original remained in the family of one of the pranksters until it was returned home in 1995. K-State’s Facilities Planning office transferred the clapper to the University Archives in December 2006!



Anderson Hall, 1882



The Clapper

In 1920 a poem by Dr. R. G. Robertson of the class of 1866 was published in *The Industrialist*, a campus publication, which reflected the sentiments of many K-Staters over the years. The last verse of the poem, “The Old College Bell,” reads:

How oft I long to listen
To its silvery tones once more;
To hear its echoes ringing
As I did in days of yore;
Tho’ far from Alma Mater,
Her fame I love to tell—
May she always keep on ringing
That dear old College Bell.



**Bell Tower,
Anderson Hall, 1980s**

To the disappointment of those who carried the same feelings as Dr. Robertson, the bell was silenced in 1965 when the first electric carillon was installed in the tower of Anderson Hall. The bell did ring once more in 1985 upon the death of Milton Eisenhower, president of K-State, 1943-1950. Otherwise, except for pigeons and an occasional visitor who left their name on the bell, it remained forgotten on its perch overlooking campus until 1993 when an inspection of the building after a lightning strike reminded university officials of the bell’s existence. Jerry Carter, university architect, and others, sought a solution to bring the bell out of hiding. In 1995, through the generosity of the family of Richard Hause, the College of Education, and its dean, Michael Holen, the bell was removed, cleaned, and installed on four historical lamp posts on the grounds immediately west of Bluemont Hall; it was dedicated during K-State’s Open House in April 1996. The bell did not relocate without a struggle. It took a crane to carefully hoist the heavy bell out of the

Anderson Hall tower after it was opened to allow such a maneuver, and it wasn’t easy to clean the 134 year old copper bell with its layers of patina! The lamp posts, a gift of the class of 1912, were

brought out of storage and refurbished for their new role. Richard Hause was a faculty member in the College of Education for 29 years and it was determined that his association with education and Bluemont Hall, and the symbolism of a bell ringing to call students to school, made the [new location](#) of the historical bell an appropriate one.

Today, while the carillon rings, the College Bell stands as a visible reminder of the university's rich heritage, and in honor of those who brought the bell to Manhattan and kept it ringing for over 100 years.

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Sources: College Bell vertical file in the University Archives containing newspaper and magazine articles, and documents; photograph of Bluemont College courtesy of the Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka.

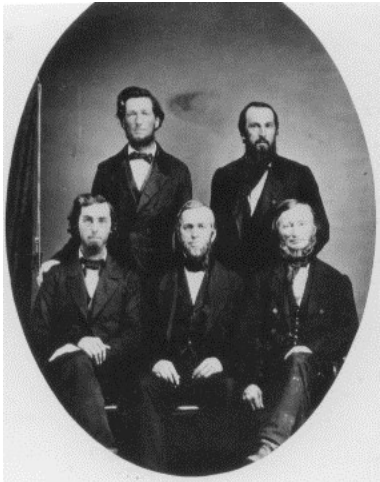
Birth of a College

10th in the Keepsakes series, originally published March 1, 2007

Founded in 1863, Kansas State University celebrated its birthday on February 16; however, the early inhabitants of Manhattan had a college prior to that date! The first settlers arrived in the area as early as 1854. Isaac T. Goodnow, and other members of the New England Emigrant Aid Company, reached the vicinity in 1855, looking for a place to settle and promote Kansas Territory as a “free state.” Once they viewed the beautiful surroundings, they looked no further for a town



**Bluemont Central College,
painting by C.E. Holroyd**



**College Promoters
Top: Harford, Schenbly
Bottom: Marlatt, Denison,
Goodnow**

site! When others arrived they adopted

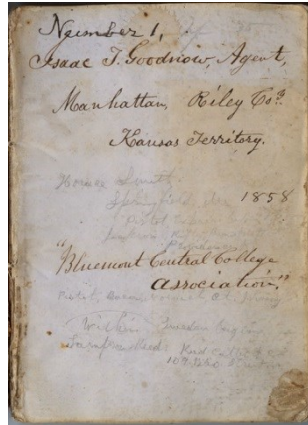
Manhattan as the name for their town as a compromise between those who migrated from Boston and Cincinnati.

Many of the settlers were well educated and, after discussing the importance of establishing a college, they obtained a charter for the Bluemont Central College Association from the Territory’s legislative assembly in 1858 to create a school. The incorporators of the college were Goodnow, Washington Marlatt, S. D. Houston, C. E. Blood, George S. Park, S. C. Popmeroy, W. A. McCollom, and T. H. Webb.

Early Manhattanites contributed funds for the erection of Bluemont Central College but financial support was obtained largely by solicitation in the East, primarily through the efforts of Isaac Goodnow. As a result, a cornerstone for the building was laid on May 10, 1859, with approximately 300 people witnessing the ceremony. Located at what is now the northwest corner of Claflin Rd. and College Ave., construction proceeded quickly and by the end of the year the building was ready for occupancy. The three story limestone structure measured 44 x 66 feet and opened its doors to students on January 9, 1860.

Out of necessity, the college was actually a primary and preparatory school because students were not prepared to obtain a college degree. Washington Marlatt served as principal and 53 students were enrolled that winter, but only 15 the next fall.

On January 29, 1861, Kansas was admitted as the 34th state. The trustees of Bluemont College soon lobbied for the “State University at Manhattan.” A bill passed by the legislature authorizing this to

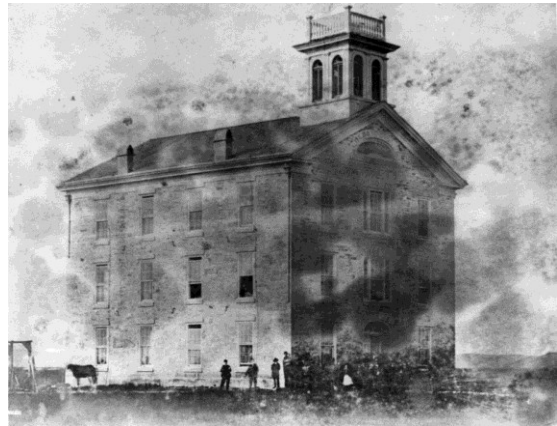


From the Account Books of Isaac Goodnow

happen was vetoed by Governor Charles Robinson, who happened to be from Lawrence and preferred that location! Without this blockage, it is safe to say that the college in Manhattan would have been known as the University of Kansas (KU was not established in Lawrence until November of 1863)!

Nonetheless, the citizens of Manhattan were not to be denied! On February 3, 1863, the State of Kansas accepted the provisions of the [Morrill Act](#) and the trustees of Bluemont College offered it to the State of Kansas because of the financial difficulties they were experiencing with the College.

With its 100 acres, building, library, and furnishings, it was an offer the legislature could not refuse! On February 16, 1863, a bill was passed transferring the College's assets to the state, making that date K-State's Founders' Day! An act passed on March 3rd designating the institution as Kansas State Agricultural College.



Bluemont Central College

To the states that accepted its terms, the Morrill Act provided 30,000 acres of land for each member of the House and the Senate. With its two senators and one representative, Kansas received 90,000 acres, the sale of which was to be used for:

...the endowment, support, and maintenance of at least one college where the leading object shall be, without excluding other scientific and classical studies, and including military tactics, to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanic arts, in such manner as the legislatures of the states may respectively prescribe, in order to promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes in the several pursuits and professions in life.

It is from this act that Kansas State University became a "land grant college."

On September 2, 1863, the college opened with 52 students, 26 male and 26 female. Joseph Denison was appointed president and taught mental and moral science, and ancient languages. Other teachers that fall included: J. G. Schnebly, mathematics and natural science; Belle M. Haines, preparatory department; and Eliza C. Beckwith, music on [melodeon](#) and piano. The first graduating class was in 1867 when five students received degrees.



Farm Machinery Hall

The first building on the present K-State campus was a stone barn, constructed in 1872. It was remodeled and in 1875 classes were relocated from Bluemont College. The Bluemont College building was destroyed in 1883 while the original

barn, Farm Machinery Hall (located in the area of Cardwell Hall), was razed in 1963.

Today, with approximately 190,000 graduates and an enrollment exceeding 23,000, the people of Kansas have every reason to be proud of the oldest public institution of higher learning in the state, Kansas State University!



**1863/64
Catalog
Illustration**

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Sources: History of the Kansas State College for Agriculture and Applied Science by Julius T. Willard, and Photograph Collection, University Archives; the photograph of Bluemont College is courtesy the Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka.

Poetry

11th in the Keepsakes series, originally published April 27, 2007

With April being [National Poetry Month](#), it is appropriate to recognize K-State's poets and poetry with a sampling of what has transpired in this area over the years! For example, in the first college catalog, 1863-1864, Homer's long narrative poem, Iliad, was listed as a required course for third year students and continued to be for several years (it is not known if they had an English version!). However, students soon created their own poetry that was more utilitarian in nature! One of the many poems included in the College Symposium, published in 1891, describes a student's feelings about agricultural chemistry. The last stanza reads:

We studied of drainage, of tillage, of composts.
Of everything horrid the author could say,
Till at last the term ended, and with it our sorrows,
But the memory will linger for many a day.

The early yearbooks often included class yells that were written in verse. In a "Jokes" section of the 1911 Royal Purple is the senior yell:

Boom a Rah! Boom a Rah!
Rip Rah, Raven,
K-S-A-C-
1911

Early publications printed at K-State containing the works of students include Quill Poems, 1929 and Two Arts: Poetry and Printing, 1934. A poem in the latter by Ellen Payne (Class of '36) was written "To describe a summer morning's sunrise as seen from a hill west of Anderson Hall"

Towers and spires
Are silhouetted against the
Blood red and burnt orange
Of a new dawn's sunrise.
Crimson and golden
Slowly and silently fade.
Towers and spires
Are silhouetted against the
Rosy pink and daffodil yellow
Of a blossoming day.

Kansas Magazine, a literary periodical published at K-State from 1933-1968, enjoyed a national reputation for the writers, artists, and poets, such as Langston Hughes, included in the issues. From 1968-1993 the periodical continued as Kansas Quarterly under the auspices of the English Department. The journal is now published as Arkansas Review by Arkansas State University.

The teaching of poetry on campus can be traced to the early 1900s when it began to appear in descriptions for English literature courses in the college catalogs. The first class devoted specifically to poetry is listed in the 1920-1921 catalog as “The New Poetry.” It is described as “...a brief study of the new poetry movement, and includes a reading and study of the leading poetic creations and representative writers of new poetry. The course also includes some practice in the writing of poetry.” Among the poets who were writing at the time and influenced this “new poetry” were [Carl Sandberg](#), [Emily Dickinson](#), [William Carlos Williams](#), and [Robert Frost](#). The class was taught by Nelson Antrim Crawford and Robert W. Conover.

Today, courses in the Department of English include “introduction to poetry writing,” “advanced creative writing: poetry,” and “creative writing workshop: poetry.” Since 1960 the department has sponsored the publication, [Touchstone](#), a journal that includes the poetry of many K-State students.

Over the years K-State has been home to a number of faculty who were accomplished poets. For example, [Jonathan Holden](#), a faculty member of the English department since 1978, was appointed by the governor as the first [poet laureate of Kansas](#) in 2005!

To allow students and others to experience poetry, numerous distinguished poets have been invited to speak on campus. Among those who have presented their works in recent years are the following:

[Dana Gioia](#)

[Yusef Komunyakaa](#)

[Ted Kooser](#) (13th poet laureate of the U.S.)

[Pattiann Rogers](#)

[Naomi Shihab Nye](#)

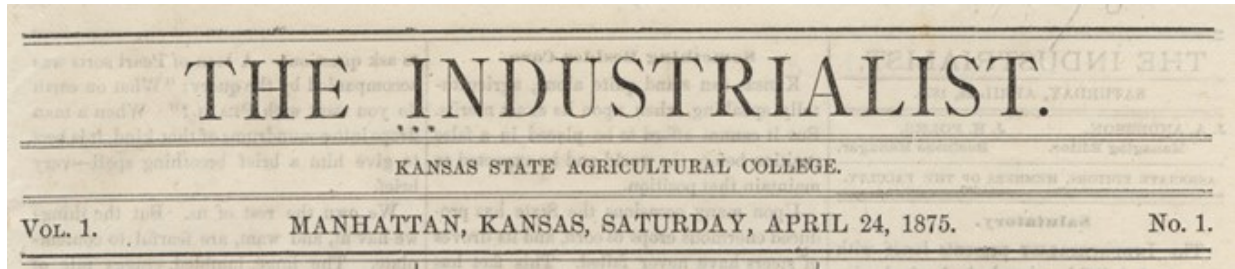
Kim Stafford (son of Kansan William Stafford)

[Ellen Byant Voigt](#)

T. S. Eliot once wrote, “[April is the cruelest month.](#)” Readers are encouraged to not let this poetic message describe your April, experience poetry and enable it to come to your senses!

EXTRA! EXTRA! Campus Newspapers

12th in the Keepsakes series, originally published June 27, 2007



Printing existed to some degree at Bluemont Central College from the time it opened on January 1, 1860 until it became Kansas State Agricultural College in 1863. It was reported that “rambunctious students kept throwing the type [from a printing press] down the stairway and protective measure had to be taken”! Formal instruction in printing began in the fall of 1873, shortly after John Anderson became the second president of the college. Adhering to the provisions of the [Morrill Act](#) that established the Land Grant college system, he expanded the curriculum by adding printing and other industrial arts programs.



John Anderson

K-State’s first newspaper appeared on April 24, 1875 when the inaugural issue



Platt House, 1932

of *The Industrialist* was published in a house known as the “Old Platt Residence” (J. E. Platt was professor of English and mathematics, 1864-1883). President Anderson was the “Managing Editor.” Initially the paper was “published every collegiate Saturday” and could be purchased for 2 cents an issue and “delivered at office” (3 cents if mailed), 10 cents per month, or 75 cents a year. Advertising rates were 1 cent per word.

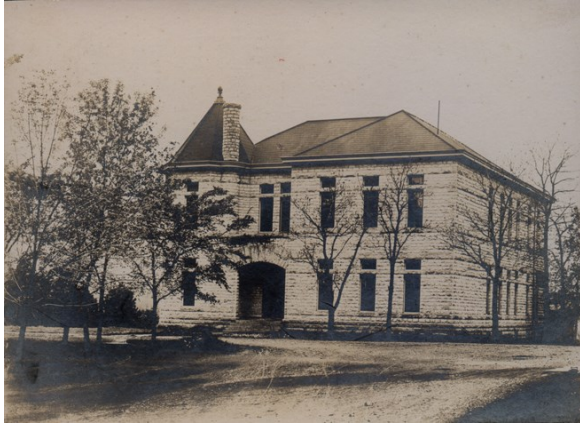
Three articles appeared on the front page of the first issue: “Forage Plants in Kansas. No. 1” by Prof. E. M. Shelton; “The Grasshopper” by Prof. J. S. Whitman; and “Boiled Down,” a series of 38 one-liners on a variety of subjects and events (some serious, some not!) taken from other publications. For example: “Jefferson County reports a vein of coal two feet thick”; “The sentinel who did not sleep on his watch had left it at the pawnbroker’s”; “One thousand cattle are on the trail from Texas to Wichita”; “A Brooklyn fool ate two hundred and thirty seven oysters



Printing, 1889

at one sitting”; and “Kansas received eight thousand Mennonite and two thousand Negro immigrants during the winter”.

In 1875, an area for printing was provided on the second floor of Farm Machinery Hall, the first building erected on the present campus. The printing office moved to several locations in the late



Kedzie Hall

1800s, early 1900s, including the machine shops and the basement of Anderson Hall, before moving to a more permanent home in Kedzie Hall around 1909. The offices of the *Collegian* remain at that location.

The Industrialist began as the official newspaper of the college. In his history of K-State published in 1940, Julius Willard states that the articles “should be accepted as authentic, but errors in respect to facts appear at times....” He added that the paper is “edited with unusual care, and...to be relied upon with safety.”

In its early years the *Industrialist* contained pieces written by faculty on educational subjects and the results of experiments and research. When the department of industrial journalism was established in 1910, with Charles J. Dillion as the head, K-State became the only college in the U. S. to offer a four year course in printing. Dillon took the view that items of local interest should be the purview of the students’ paper. These changes had an influence on the name of the publication switching from *The Industrialist* to *The Kansas Industrialist*.

Gradually, pieces by faculty became less prevalent and articles were written for readership by the alumni; for a time issues of the *Kansas Industrialist* were mailed to alumni free of charge. In 1951 the first three issues of *The K-Stater*, intended for alumni, appeared on an “experimental basis” as supplements to the *Industrialist*. Apparently the test was successful because the first *K-Stater* as an independent publication was issued on October 1951 as Vol. 1, No. 1. The last issue of the *Industrialist* as a newspaper appeared in 1955.

The Trumpet became the “successor to the *Kansas Industrialist*” during the 1955-1964 period. Published by the Kansas State Endowment Association, it began as a bi-monthly in a magazine style and later switched to a quarterly in a newspaper format. Subtitled “Notes on the Changing Scene at Kansas State College,” the publication was distributed to alumni, financial contributors, and the campus community, although the intent was to encourage support from alumni and donors.

The creation of a student paper was hindered for a number of years by reserving columns in the *Industrialist* for student contributions; student editors were elected in 1891. It is not surprising that the students favored a newspaper of their own rather than have the number of their articles limited and subject to faculty editorship.



The first student newspaper, *The Students' Herald*, was issued on January 8, 1896 and a student newspaper has been published continuously since that date. For a brief period, April 2, 1913 to April 22, 1914, the paper was known as *The Kansas Aggie*. The first issue of *The Kansas State Collegian* appeared April 25, 1914. Willard, the college historian and a professor of chemistry who was known for his attention to detail, wrote in 1930 that the articles were “rather hastily prepared, frequently exhibits errors, and should be regarded primarily as suggestive rather than authoritative.”



Printing Shop

As expected, technology had an impact on the newspaper business. As early as 1972, the *Collegian* acquired computers making it the first newsroom in Kansas to use computerized editing equipment and among the first to do so at an American university. In 1994 the first [E-Collegian](#) appeared making it only the third college newspaper to publish daily on the Web. In 1996 the *Collegian* celebrated the 100th anniversary of a student newspaper published at K-State. At the time the newspaper had a circulation of 11,500, making it the eighth largest morning daily in Kansas. Over the years the newspaper and journalism students have won numerous awards from state, regional, and national organizations and associations making it one of the more recognized university newspapers in the country.

When the *Students' Herald* was created in 1896 it carried the words, “It will be our purpose to speak as the voice of the students on all occasions. Where there is need of improvement, we want to be found. Where there is work to be done, we want our hand to be at the wheel. Where the student’s interests are involved, we will exert every effort to secure justice.” While the *Collegian* is not without its critics, it remains the students’ voice and provides the university community a much needed service by reporting the news, events and issues of the day.

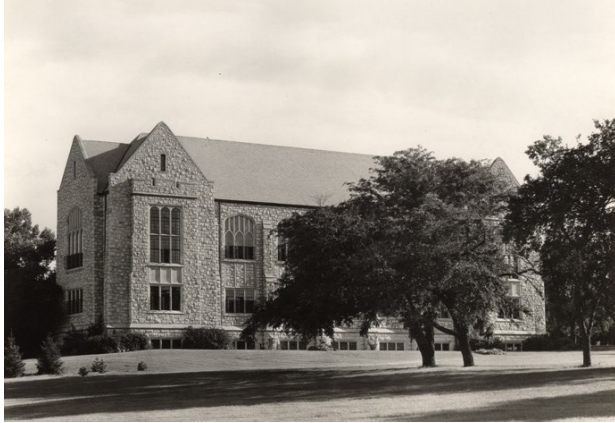
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Sources: History of Kansas State College of Agriculture and Applied Science by Julius Willard; The Industrialist, Kansas State Collegian, The K-Stater, University Archives Vertical Files and photograph collection

Hale Library, 1997-2007: “Happy Birthday to you....”

13th in the Keepsakes series, originally published December 3, 2007

On October 5, 1997, Hale Library was officially dedicated ending an 80 year architectural odyssey



Farrell Library, 1927

and ushering in a new world of library resources, both traditional and electronic. The college library was completed in 1927, making it the first building on campus devoted solely to housing the library. Lack of space continued to be problematic and in 1955 the stacks addition was completed to the south. At that time the library was named in honor of Francis David Farrell, the university’s eighth president (1925-1943). To alleviate overcrowding, a second addition to the southeast was completed in 1970.

Growth of collections and services, combined with a severe reduction in quality study space, led to outside consultants recommending that the library be expanded at a cost of \$28 million. With dwindling state resources for construction projects, an innovative answer to how finance a new library had to be found. Three components came together to fund the project: a federal wind fall of funds to the state allowed Governor Joan Finney to allocate \$18 million for the construction; K-State students passed a referendum to provide \$5 million; and Joe and Joyce Hale, impressed with the students’ financial commitment, came forward with \$5 million. Without all three, the library addition and renovation could not have become a reality. To recognize the essential contribution of the Hales the new library was named in their honor.



Farrell Library, 1955



Farrell Library, 1970

To acknowledge the importance of the original library and its namesake, the 1927 structure retains the designation of “Historic Farrell Library” and the main entry to Hale is officially known as the Farrell Entrance.

Other major donors provided initial and more recent funding during the last decade, including the Kansas Farm Bureau Insurance Co., Andreas Foundation, Archer Daniels Midland Foundation, Dow Chemical, William R. Love, Richard and Marjorie Morse, and Mr. and Mrs. Dan

Wassenberg. The [Friends of K-State Libraries](#), founded in 1984, has provided funding for numerous acquisitions, furniture, and equipment during the last ten years. Students continued to support its library through funding initiatives that include computer stations for the InfoCommons, SFX software, and the Google Search Appliance.

One of the major goals of the new library was to assimilate the old and the new structures, architecturally and aesthetically. With that in mind, the construction encased and expanded the west, south, and east sides of the previous library, while leaving the original 1927 building exposed to preserve its historic beauty and significance. In 1999 Hale Library received the Merit Award for Excellence from the American Institute of Architects for the central states region.



Hale Library, 1997

On the interior, the library was designed to be user friendly and house the collections, services, and departments necessary to anticipate and provide the needs of the 21st century. In addition to providing traditional library material (the holdings are approaching two million cataloged volumes!), library resources are available to distant users through data bases with full text delivery, innovative searching capabilities (most recently the Google Search Appliance), digital initiatives, and interlibrary services. To meet the challenging role of providing information to users, the Collection Services and Access Services Departments have met and advanced the demands presented by the information explosion. To support the technology needs of students and faculty, the Information Technology Assistance Center (iTAC) is housed in Hale. The space odyssey of a library never ends and K-State Libraries has entered a cooperative agreement with the University of Kansas to house bound volumes in a shared storage facility in Lawrence.

The following areas are key components of K-State Libraries' commitment to providing information, collections and services to targeted user groups: Dr. William R. Love Science Library, Dow Chemical Multicultural Resource Center, Richard L.D. and Marjorie J. Morse Department of Special Collections, Government Publications, the branch libraries at the colleges of Veterinary Medicine, Architecture, and Engineering, and the Math/Physics Department.

As emphasized by Lori Goetsch, Dean of K-State Libraries, "an even more powerful link to ...information resources is the human link." By 2007, the Libraries employed 136 FTE staff to provide users with information and services. Dean Goetsch replaced Brice Hobrock as dean when he retired in 2004 after serving 21 years in that position.

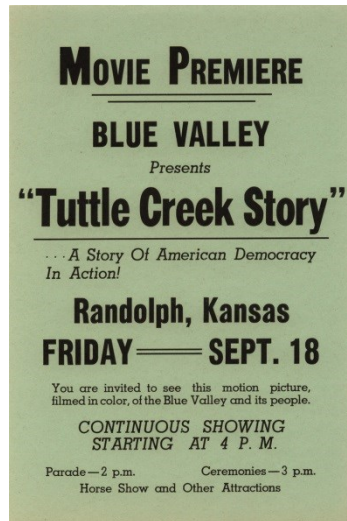
To meet the needs of the library and its constituents in the future, library administration and staff ended the first decade of Hale Library's service by completing "[A Living Strategic Plan](#)" for 2007-2012. As stated in that document, the "K-State Libraries...has been adapting for the past decade to both the challenges and opportunities posted by today's digital information environment. With the

realization that more and more information is created and shared electronically it is the goal of the Libraries to foster a flexible, adaptable, and creative environment to meet these changing needs.” The staff of K-State Libraries is looking forward to serving its myriad of users in the next decade with anticipation and confidence that their search for scholarly information will be successful.

"The Tuttle Creek Story" and the Velen Sisters

14th in the Keepsakes series, originally published March 26, 2008

Currently showing on K-State Television, Channel 8 (cable), is "The Tuttle Creek Story: Presented by the Blue Valley People of Kansas." The University Archives made its original 16 mm film of the "Story" available to Ron Frank, Educational Communications Center, to reformat for this program. The University Archives' copy was selected because its condition is superior to those located in other archives. Part of the television program includes an interview that he conducted with Cheryl



Collins, director of the Riley County Historical Museum, about the making of the film, its significance at the time, and importance to the history of the region. The University Archives and the Velen Collection (see below) are acknowledged at the end of the program. The focus of the film is the early 1950s and how the construction of a dam would destroy the existing Blue River Valley. The film was professionally filmed and produced by Charles M. Peters of Beverly Hills, California, and released in 1953. Mr. Frank provided the University Archives with a DVD version of the film and the program. "The Tuttle Creek Story" came with the Doris and Leona Velen Tuttle Creek Dam Collection that was donated to the University Archives in 2004 by Kevin Larson, a history teacher at Riley County High School. The Velen sisters lived in Cleburne, a town in the Blue River Valley

that was eventually flooded when the Tuttle Creek Dam was constructed. The sisters were key participants in a highly organized "grass roots" effort to "Stop the Big Dam Foolishness." While the Velens are not identified by name, it is assumed that they are pictured in the film. For example, included in the footage is a bus trip a group from the area took to visit Dwight D. Eisenhower in an effort to gain his opposition to the dam. Doris and Leona were active in planning this activity. Construction of the dam began in 1952 and it was



completed in 1962 after several delays. The Velen Collection is one of several in the University Archives that documents the Tuttle Creek Dam and the history of the area. The collection is significant to researchers, not only for the information it contains about Tuttle Creek Dam, but because it provides excellent documentation of the controversy between citizens and the U. S Government, the Army Corps of Engineers in particular, over the flooding of land and communities throughout the country. The contents include correspondence with political leaders around the state and country, speeches, documents concerning meetings and events, pamphlets, scrapbooks, related material, and, of course, the film. A [description of the collection](#) is available. A related collection in the University Archives is that of [Doris H. Fenton](#). It contains material she collected during the time the dam was being considered and constructed, as well as conservation issues. These are two of the numerous collections of personal papers and records preserved in the holdings related to "Agriculture and Rural Life" in Kansas, a strategic collecting emphasis of the Morse Department of

Special Collections. Many of the archival collections are summarized at: <http://www.lib.k-state.edu/depts/spec/flyers/ag-history.html>

Jerry Wexler: Mr. "Rhythm & Blues"

15th in the Keepsakes series, originally published August 19, 2008

[Jerry Wexler](#), Class of 1946, passed away on August 15, 2008 at the age of 91. A native of New York, he entered K-State by chance when his mother selected the college while pouring over college descriptions in the mid 1930s. He came to Manhattan in 1935 but dropped out of college only to quit the school again when he returned the next year. No doubt his lack of success as a student was due in part to the numerous trips Wexler made to Kansas City where he got caught up in the city's jazz scene. After a stint in the military during WWII, Wexler returned to K-State as a more serious student. Wexler said the "university accepted him back" and he "worked hard and did very well, stayed out of pool rooms." He received a degree in journalism in 1946.

After graduating, Wexler landed a job with Billboard magazine reviewing records. It was during this time that he and others were attempting to come up with a new term for "race music." When he coined the phrase "rhythm and blues" it stuck as Wexler gained notoriety for integrating this style of music into the popular white culture.

In 1953, Wexler was asked to join Atlantic Records where he became a partner in the company. For over 20 years he was instrumental in building Atlantic into a major record label. Wexler signed and produced performers such as Ray Charles, Aretha Franklin, Otis Redding, Wilson Pickett, The Coasters, and The Drifters, to name a few. Later, he was influential in advancing the careers of Led Zeppelin, The Rolling Stones, and Dylan, who he helped win a Grammy in 1979. Others he worked with included Dire Straits, Carlos Santana, and Willie Nelson!

Wexler won numerous awards during his illustrious career including the Lifetime Achievement Award of the Blues Foundation in 1995, and the coveted Trustee Award at the Grammy Award ceremony in 1996. He was inducted in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1987. K-State recognized Wexler's achievements by honoring him as an Alumni Fellow in 1996.

In 1986, Wexler honored K-State by donating a collection of approximately 2,000 recordings to the University. It contains albums he received from Atlantic as well as items from his own collection. The core of the collection consists of recordings from the mid-1960s into the 1980s and reflects Wexler's professional and personal interests. The K-State Department of Music and the K-State Libraries collaborated to receive the collection from Wexler; it is available for use in the Morse Department of Special Collections. Titles can be identified by conducting a keyword search in the K-State Libraries on-line catalog.

In 1993, Wexler published his autobiography, *Rhythm and the Blues: A Life in American Music*.

One need not go any further than the K-State Libraries to learn more about K-Stater Jerry Wexler and his influence on America's music!

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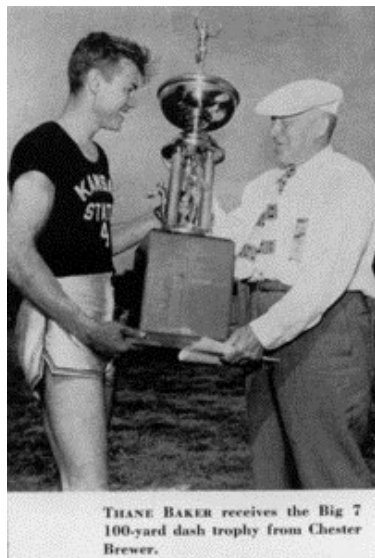
Sources. "Jerry Wexler: The Steward of Rhythm and Blues." A&S. Spring, 1986; "Wexler Finds Success at KSU-And in Life." K-Stater. July, 1993; Vertical File-Jerry Wexler, University Archives.

Wildcat Olympians

16th in the Keepsakes series, originally published August 25, 2008

Now that the 2008 Olympic Games have come to an end, it is time to recognize the very impressive number of K-State athletes who have participated in the Olympics, either while attending the University or after leaving. In fact, K-State has sent at least one athlete to the Olympics since the 1968 games in Mexico City! Christian Smith ran the 800 meters at the most recent Olympics but did not qualify for the finals.

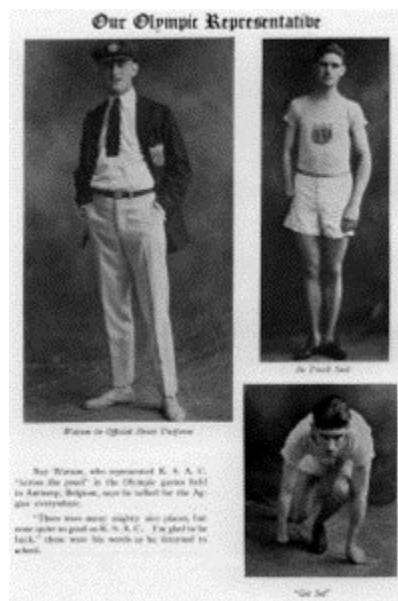
Beginning with the 1920 Olympics, 20 K-Staters have competed in the Games winning a total of 11 medals including 4 gold, 4 silver, and 3 bronze. This total is even more impressive when you consider that major Olympic events swimming and gymnastics have not been varsity sports at K-State for many years.



THANE BAKER receives the Big 7 100-yard dash trophy from Chester Brewer.

Thane Baker

Ray Watson holds the distinction of being the first Wildcat to become an Olympian when he placed 7th in the steeplechase in 1920. He also participated in the 1924 and 1928 Games. Watson holds a place in Wildcat lore by becoming the University's first NCAA champion, winning the mile run in 1921. His accomplishments are even more impressive considering he lost his hand in a shotgun accident at age 14!



Ray Watson

Thane Baker is the most decorated Wildcat having won the silver medal in 1952 (200 meters), and a gold (400m relay), silver (100m), and bronze (200m) in 1958. Other gold medal winners include: Bob

Boozler, basketball, 1960; Kenny Harrison, triple jump, 1996; and Mitch Richmond, basketball, 1996.

Five Wildcats participated in more than one Olympics, Ray Watson (1920, 1924, 1928), Thane Baker (1952 and 1956), Mitch Richmond (1988 and 1996), Attila Zsivoczky (2000 and 1004), and Austra Skujyte (2000 and 2004).

Margaret Thompson Murdock not only was the first K-State female Olympian, she was the first woman ever to win a medal in rifle shooting! She won the silver in 1976 when men and women competed against each other in the event!



Margaret Thompson (bottom, 2nd from left) and the 1965 Rifle Team

K-State has maintained a tradition of excellence in track and field sending 15 athletes to the Olympics. Of those, 8 have represented the University since Cliff Rovelto became head coach in 1992. As a result of his reputation, numerous athletes from around the world have come to Manhattan to coach and train with him, many became Olympians.

Below is a list of all the Wildcat Olympians in chronological order:

1920 Antwerp. Ray Watson, steeplechase, 7th

1924 Paris. Ivan Riley, 400m hurdles, bronze; Ray Watson, 1,500m

1928 Amsterdam. Ray Watson, 800m, 7th

1952 Helsinki. Thane Baker, 200m, silver

1956 Melbourne. Thane Baker, 400m relay (gold); 100m (silver); 200m (bronze)

1960 Rome. Bob Boozer, basketball, gold

1968 Mexico City. Conrad Nightingale, steeplechase

1972 Munich. Jerome Howe, 1,500m; Ken Swenson, 800m

1976 Montreal. Margaret Thompson Murdock, rifle shooting, silver

1980 Moscow. Rolando Blackman, basketball, U.S. boycotted games



Kenny Harrison

1984 Los Angeles. Doug Lytle, pole vault, 6th

1988 Seoul. Mitch Richmond, basketball, bronze

1992 Barcelona. Craig Wilson, baseball, 4th

1996 Atlanta. Kenny Harrison, triple jump, gold; Mitch Richmond, basketball, gold; Steve Fritz, decathlon, 4th; Ed Broxterman, high jump; Connie Teaberry, high jump

2000 Sydney. Attila Zsivoczky, decathlon, 8th (for Hungary); Nathan Leeper, high jump, 11th; Austra Skujyte, heptathlon, 12th (for Lithuania)

2004 Athens. Austra Skujyte, heptathlon, silver (for Lithuania); Attila Zsivoczky, decathlon, 6th (for Hungary)

2008 Beijing. Christian Smith, 800 meters

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Sources. University Archives: Vertical Files; Athletic Department, Olympic Games; contains numerous articles from K-Stater,

Anthony R. Crawford

Sports Information Office, K-State Collegian, and other newspapers. Photographs are from the Royal Purple yearbook and Student Publications.

First Ladies of K-State, 1863-2009

17th in the Keepsakes series, originally published February 16, 2009

K-State celebrates Founders' Day on February 16! On that date in 1863 ownership of Bluemont Central College, the school established by the leaders who settled the Manhattan area in the 1850s, was transferred to the state and became Kansas State Agricultural College (now Kansas State University). It is the oldest public institution of higher education in the state.

For the last 146 years, twelve men have held the office of president at K-State, from Joseph Denison (1863-1873) to Jon Wefald (1986-2009). What better time than Founders' Day to recognize the women who joined their husbands to serve the university as first ladies! Unfortunately, this venue does not provide the space to adequately describe the individual characteristics of these outstanding women. Collectively they: supported their husbands; raised children; became leaders in campus and community organizations; hosted visiting dignitaries, faculty, and students; and carried out countless other roles to benefit their institution.

The average tenure of a first lady was 12 years with Janet McCain serving the longest, 25 years, while Marie Will remained in her position for two. Ruth Ann Wefald has been at K-State for 23 years.

Below is a list of the 12 first ladies, their husbands, years of service, and one random tidbit about their life or time at K-State. (Photos of the first ladies and presidents are available on the [University Archives website](#).)

Frances Ann Osborne (Dennis) Denison (Joseph), Sep 1, 1863-Aug 31, 1873. Only first lady and husband to have had a previous marriage.

Ann "Nannie" Taylor Foote Anderson (John), Sep 1, 1873-Sep 1, 1879. Met future husband during childhood.

Charlotte Pearl Halstead Fairchild (George), Dec 1, 1879-Jun 30, 1897. Son, David, married Marian Bell, daughter of Alexander Graham Bell.

Marie Van Velsor Rogers Will (Thomas), Jul 1, 1897-Jun 30, 1899. Had excellent voice and sang at campus events.

Marguerite Rae Nichols (Ernest), Jul 1, 1899-Jun 30, 1909. Born in Aberdeen, Scotland.

Margaret Ward Watson Waters (Henry), Jul 1, 1909-Dec 31, 1917. When they left Manhattan, the home they built at 311 N. 14th was purchased by Kappa Kappa Gamma as their sorority house.

Effie Lane Nebeker Jardine (William), Mar 1, 1918-Feb 28, 1925. Only first lady of two Kansas public colleges/universities (William became president of Wichita State in 1934).

Mildred Leona Jenson Farrell (Francis), Mar 1, 1925-Aug 31, 1943. Only first lady to have a baby during her tenure.

Helen Elsie Eakin Eisenhower (Milton), Sep 1, 1943-Jun 30, 1950. Only Manhattan native to become first lady.

Janet McLean Henry McCain (James), Jul 1, 1950-Jun 20, 1975. An accomplished ballerina, she served longest term as first lady, 25 years.

Shirley Hansen Acker (Duane), Jul 1, 1975-Jun 30, 1986. Accomplished artist who took lessons from Oscar Larmer, K-State and Manhattan artist.

Ruth Ann Joynt Wefald (Jon), Jul 1, 1986-summer 2009. Driving force behind the establishment of the Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art at K-State.

With President Jon Wefald announcing his retirement effective the end of the academic year (2008-2009), a national search was undertaken for a replacement. On February 11, 2009, it was announced that Kirk H. Schulz and Noel Nunnally Schulz will become the 13th president and first lady of K-State!

Edward M. Kennedy

18th in the Keepsakes series, originally published August 26, 2009

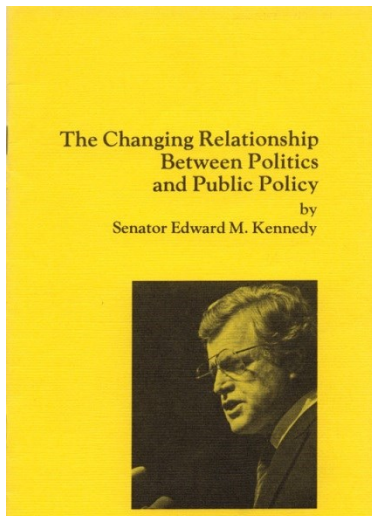
Today as the country observes the death of Edward M. Kennedy at age 77, it is noteworthy to recall that he delivered the 61st Alfred M. Landon Lecture on Public Issues at Kansas State University on January 30, 1984. The senator from Massachusetts spoke on "The Changing Relationship Between Politics and Public Policy."

Arriving 35 minutes late because his flight had been delayed, Senator Kennedy spoke to a capacity crowd of 1,800 people in McCain Auditorium. The senator criticized President Ronald Reagan for a number of his recent policies. President Reagan delivered a Landon Lecture in 1982 and in 1967 while serving as governor of California. Senator Kennedy's brother, Robert, presented a Landon Lecture in 1968, his first public speech after announcing his candidacy for president. He was assassinated a few months later.



Edward Kennedy at K-State, 1984

The Kansas State Collegian reported that, unlike previous lectures, no protests or disturbances took place. The people who crowded outside McCain Auditorium appeared more interested in meeting the senator than protesting. John Carlin, governor of Kansas, and Senator Nancy Landon Kassebaum, Alf Landon's daughter, attended the lecture.



Landon Lectures Booklet

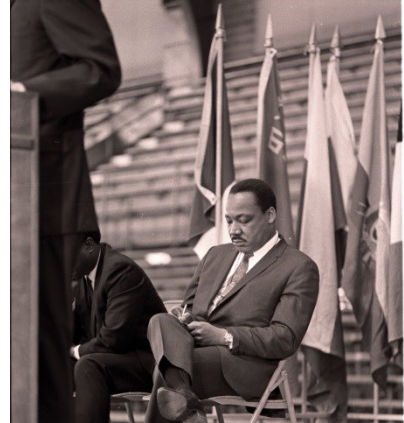
Twenty-five years ago Senator Kennedy addressed a number of issues that sound familiar today including the use of American troops in foreign countries. He stated that he opposed "...the policy of scorning human rights [in El Salvador], and then putting 5,000 American troops on permanent maneuvers in Honduras...Central America must be an issue in this [presidential] campaign--so that afterwards we will not go to war by the back door, with our people divided and deceived. History has taught us in anguish and retreat the folly of that course." A text of Senator Kennedy's speech is available in the University Archives and an [audio version](#) is accessible through the K-State Landon Lecture Series home page.

Named after Alfred M. Landon, former governor of Kansas, the lecture series began in 1966. It is considered one of the most prestigious of its kind in the United States. During the 2009-2010 academic year Admiral Michael G. Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Sheila C. Bair, chair of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, are scheduled to present the 154th and 155th Landon Lectures.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Visits K-State

19th in the Keepsakes series, originally published January 14, 2010

On January 19, 1968, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke to a crowd of over 7,000 in Ahearn Field House on the campus of Kansas State University; the title of his speech was "The Future of Integration." He was invited to present an "all University Convocation," although today it is often assumed that he was a speaker in the Alfred M. Landon Lecture Series on Public Issues. It is worth noting that the Landon Lecture Series was in its infancy at that time with Alf Landon giving the inaugural presentation on December 13, 1966, followed by three speakers in 1967. As early as July 1967, King was invited to be a Convocations speaker in January of 1968. The Convocations Series had been established in 1963 with Harry Golden, an American Jewish author and publisher, delivering the first talk on April 3. The subject of his remarks was racial equality!



Dr. King at Ahearn, 1968

During its existence (1963-1997) over 200 distinguished speakers participated in the Convocations Series including representatives of various ethnic and religious groups. In the 1960s and 1970s alone speakers included Braj Kumar Nehru (Indian diplomat and Ambassador to the U.S., 1961-1969), Pierre Mendes (French socialist and statesman), Charles Malik (Lebanese human rights advocate), Carl Rowan (Black journalist), Charles Evers (civil rights advocate and older brother of Medgar Evers), Dick Gregory (political and civil rights activist who spoke twice), Gordon Parks (Black photographer and writer), and Ralph Abernathy (civil rights leader and close associate of King).

In retrospect, King's visit and speech was an important event in K-State's history and King's legacy. On April 4, 1968, less than three months after his trip to K-State, he would be assassinated in Memphis. How King's visit was accepted by K-Staters and the people of Manhattan is a matter of opinion. Certainly James McCain, president of Kansas State University (1950-1975), held a strong belief in freedom of speech and that a university should offer its students and faculty the opportunity to hear people from different walks of life and other countries to express their diverse viewpoints, as indicated above. McCain later admitted that he received criticism for allowing King to speak on campus, just how much is not known. One negative letter was uncovered in his presidential papers that denounced him for inviting "the Communist stooge" to K-State, one that the "negroe [sic] community now recognizes as a phony." However, in 1986, several former faculty members who were present at King's lecture reflected in a K-State news release how well King was received on campus and the favorable reactions to his message.

The year 1968 was especially noteworthy in K-State history. Not only was Dr. King assassinated a few weeks after he spoke on campus, so was Senator Robert F. Kennedy. On March 18, Kennedy made his first public speech at K-State after announcing that he was a candidate for the presidency (the University of Kansas also claims that distinction but Kennedy spoke here in the morning and at

KU later in the day!). Kennedy died from an assassin's bullet on June 6 after winning the presidential primary in California. Ironically, while serving as Attorney General of the United States in 1963, Kennedy gave J. Edgar Hoover of the FBI permission to tap King's telephone to determine if he was involved in Communist activities. Apparently Kennedy's approval was for a limited basis and a brief period of time but Hoover took it upon himself to monitor King's activities more extensively and for an extended period. Both King and Kennedy addressed the Vietnam War in their remarks at K-State. The conflict drew the attention of President McCain and his administration for several years; the most visible example was the burning of Nichols Gym, also in 1968 (on Friday the 13th of December!), apparently at the hands of arsonists opposed to the war (the responsible parties were never arrested).



Nichols Gym Fire, 1968



King arrived on campus in 1968 as the leader of the Civil Rights movement. As director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference he helped found in 1957, he led and participated in numerous major events throughout the U.S. until the time of his death. For example, he was one of the organizers of the march on Washington, D.C. in 1963 where he delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964 becoming only the second African American to receive the prestigious award (Barack Obama was the third). At age 39, King was the youngest to win the prize since it was initiated in 1901.

King's address concerned the issue of whether any real progress had been made in the area of race relations. He summarized the history of slavery and segregation in the U.S. pointing out how far integration had come; however, in truth, he told the audience that there was still so much that needed to be done in terms of racial equality. He said to ignore this truth would leave those in attendance "...the victims of an illusion wrapped in superficiality, and we would all go away the victims of a dangerous optimism." He went on to summarize the discriminatory conditions the "Negro" faced around the country in a multitude of areas: violence (shootings, lynchings, and arson), housing, employment, education, and "psychological murder," to name a few.



He reinforced his stance on confronting the plight of the Negro by non-violent means because it "...is the most potent weapon available to oppressed people in their struggle for freedom and human dignity." At the same time, he stated he would be "...as vigorous in condemning the continued existence of intolerable conditions in our society..." He offered his views on how inequality should be addressed including the passage of legislation to address illegal behavior because the country had a debt to pay the American Negro whose ancestors were brought here in slavery and had not been allowed to obtain all the qualities of freedom through a myriad of discriminatory practices.

King felt the situation was enhanced by the Vietnam conflict taking place at the time. He explained how the administration of President Lyndon B. Johnson was using the war to divert attention from



civil rights and poverty. He answered those who criticized his opposition to the administration's war policy by stating he could not support the war even if that meant jeopardizing his integration efforts. Instead, it was a matter of right and wrong and it was wrong to be involved in a war that could not be won. According to King it was a war where the U.S. government spent \$500,000 for every Viet Cong killed versus spending \$53 for an American living in poverty.

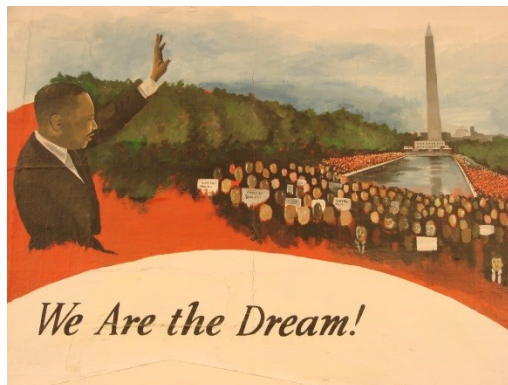
King admitted to the K-State students that he often got discouraged because of the conditions of racial inequality, as well as the war in Vietnam, and questioned if these problems could be solved. However, he continued by saying that when he visited college campuses and talked with students his hope was always renewed. "I think that you who sit here today under the sound of my voice may well have the answer, for it is the student generation that is saying to America that there must be a radical reordering of priorities. It is the student generation that is saying to America there must be a revolution of values, and is forcing America to review its values."



Dr. King did not live to see how his "Dream" for equality played out and if the students of America had a positive impact. To honor King, a Martin Luther King, Jr. Observance Week is sponsored by K-State every January. In 2007 a bust of King was dedicated on the lawn near the southeast corner of Ahearn Field House to recognize his achievements and visit to K-State 39 years before. At that time 17th Street was given the honorary name of Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Drive.

A "We Are the Dream" mural was painted and dedicated in 1980 on the fourth floor of Hale Library. It was sponsored by the Black Student Union, MEChA (a Chicano student group), and the Native American Indian Student Body.

While King's death prohibited him from fulfilling his "Dream," the words and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., live at Kansas State University.



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Selected sources

King, Martin Luther, Jr. "The Future of Integration." Issues 1968. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas 1968.

James A. McCain Papers. University Archives, Hale Library, Kansas State University

Photograph Collection. University Archives

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"His Message Lingers." K-Stater. (February 1966), p. 66.

Men's Basketball from Ahearn Field House to "Octagon of Doom!"

20th in the Keepsakes series, originally published February 5, 2010

With the recent success of the men's basketball team in Bramlage Coliseum, now known as the

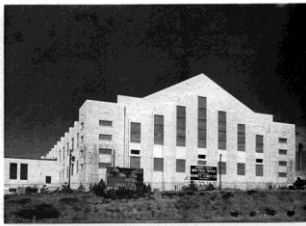


"Octagon of Doom," K-State fans forget or don't realize that Bramlage hasn't always been a deafening and intimidating place for visiting teams. In fact, the opening of the new basketball facility in 1988 and leaving Ahearn Field House, the Wildcat's home for over 35 years, was not without controversy, controversy that has lingered to this day

among many long time members of the K-State faithful and others aware of Bramlage's history.



SOUVENIR PROGRAM
Opening of the
Kansas State College Field House



View from the South, Showing Part of Three-story Wing to the West
Saturday, December 9, 1950
Kansas State vs. Utah State
On the Campus of Kansas State College, Manhattan
- 25c -

From the time the Cats beat Utah State in the first game played in Ahearn Field House on December 9, 1950, the structure has remained an icon for K-State basketball, the place that coaches of opposing teams called the loudest and most difficult place to play in the country. Leaving the cramped and antiquated Nichols Gym for a modern facility like Ahearn was a "dream comes true" for Wildcats fans: after all, Coach Jack Gardner had taken the Wildcats from Nichols to the final four in the 1948 NCAA tournament before losing. Because of overcrowded conditions the rafters of Nichols became a place for fans to watch games rather than a location to hang

retired jerseys of outstanding players. When completed, Ahearn was one of the largest and most envied college basketball arenas in the country (Allen Field House opened at the University of Kansas in 1955). After arriving in Ahearn, the Wildcats sent 17 more teams to the NCAA tournament, 3 made final four appearances (1951, 1958, and 1964).



During the 1970s athletic departments around the country started "keeping up with the Jones' " by constructing new basketball palaces for their programs in order to entice big time recruits and accommodate more fans (and generate more revenue!). K-State jumped on the band wagon and planning for a new field house moved forward in the 1980s. However, the decision did not come

without considerable differences of opinion among Wildcat followers. The months before



construction on Bramlage began was a difficult period, one reason being the plans for the proposed 16,000 seat building failed to materialize when bids from construction firms came in way over cost. As a result, the design was scaled back to a 13,500 seat arena to come in line with the funds allocated for the new facility. Finding additional appropriations to allow the construction of a larger field house did not appear to be

popular with those holding the purse strings at the time in part because not only would the arena be

expensive, it was envisioned that a larger field house could create empty seats because of the estimated fan base in Kansas. The average attendance per game in Ahearn the last five years the team played there was approximately 8,600! For Ahearn proponents, renovating and remodeling the "old barn" into a larger and modern facility was ruled out because it was reported that the structure would not allow physical changes regardless of the cost. Originally



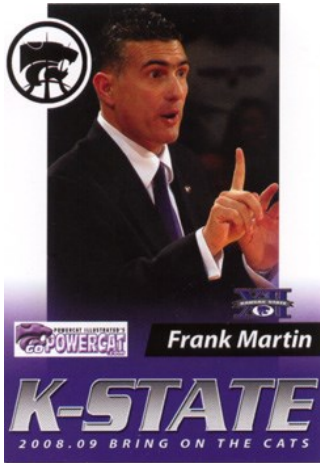
accommodating 14,000 fans, in time seating was reduced to 11,700 when space had to be eliminated to satisfy modern safety codes. The ground breaking for Bramlage took place on October 16, 1986



and the first game was played on November 26, 1988 when the Wildcats defeated Purdue coached by Gene Keady who graduated from K-State in 1958! There were, and remain, many unhappy campers regarding the abandonment of Ahearn, including those who wanted the new facility to hold more fans to watch successful teams in the future (fast forward to 2010, "what were they thinking?!").

Unlike the Wildcat fans that followed their team from Nichols Gym to Ahearn Field House, the disappointment of Ahearn fans in Bramlage, as well as from fans that were not aware of the Ahearn tradition, intensified among many backers because the Wildcats failed to win big not too long after they arrived in their new home for the 1988-1989 season. While Coach Lon Kruger took the Wildcats to the NCAA tournament in 1989 and 1990 (with modest 19-11 and 17-15 records!), they lost in the first round on both trips. Ironically, Kruger's two teams in Ahearn, the last to play in the old field house, had records of 20-11 (1986-1987) and 25-9 (1987-1988) and advanced to the NCAA tournament. Ahearn's last team went to the "Elite 8" before losing to (drum roll, please!) the Kansas Jayhawks who went on to win the national championship! Once in Bramlage, the atmosphere and home court advantage left much to be desired; more often than not the Cats played to modest crowds over the years. After the first two seasons when attendance averaged over 12,000, the turn out slipped to an average of 7,742 by the

2005-2006 season. Although the record in Bramlage for the first 21 seasons was 245 wins with 88 losses (as critics of the Wildcats' schedule are quick to point out, each year many of the victories came against Division II schools or lower echelon Division I programs prior to the start of Big 12 play, and were not crowd pleasers), the Big 12 record at home stood at a less than impressive 91-70, or .565%. It can be surmised that the environment that existed between Coach Lon Kruger's last season in Bramlage, 1989-1990, and when Bob Huggins arrived for the 2006-2007 campaign, was not conducive to attracting prize recruits to the prairie in large numbers, or sustaining a high level of excitement among fans when compared to the atmosphere in Bramlage the last few years.



Before last season when the Wildcats under Frank Martin beat the University of Southern California in the first round of the NCAA tournament, only four other teams had participated in the tourney during the 21 seasons the Cats played in Bramlage, including Kruger's first two teams in the Coliseum; all failed to win their first round games. It had been 12 years since the Cats' last appearance in the "Big Dance"! And, K-State has yet to win a conference championship in Bramlage after winning 19 titles in Ahearn and Nichols. Although the jerseys of 10 former players have been retired in the rafters of Bramlage, none of them played in the facility.

While not the focus of this "Keepsake," it should be noted that the women's basketball teams have enjoyed success in Ahearn and Bramlage. The Wildcats were Big 12 champions in 2004 and 2008, and in 2007 won the National Invitational Tournament (NIT) before boisterous sellout crowds in Bramlage, crowds that definitely doomed the visiting teams. All-Americans Nichole Ohlde, Kendra Wecker, and Shalee Lehning, whose jerseys hang in Bramlage, excited large crowds during their years at K-State.

Although the men's program has experienced some success in Bramlage, and there have been quality coaches and exciting players for fans to enjoy (and it is usually difficult for visiting teams to win on the road, including at K-State), it is easy to ascertain that until the last few seasons Bramlage was not the "Octagon of Doom" that fits the definition that has been created recently. Building on the excitement that coach Bob Huggins brought to Bramlage in 2006-2007, and that all-American Michael Beasley and first year coach Frank Martin created the next year, the 2009-2010 season with Martin's passion, fans who have adopted favorite players such as Jacob Pullen with his "fear the beard" moniker, and a sea of intimidating signs in the raucous crowd to welcome opposing teams, Bramlage has been able to shed its personality as an all too often sterile and emotionless place to play, at least for now.





In January 2010, after a victory in Bramlage over number one ranked Texas that was televised nationally on ESPN's "Big Monday" time slot, the Wildcats fell to Oklahoma State and the University of Kansas in the Coliseum. On January 30, ESPN showcased the K-State/KU game where announcers broadcast its "Game Day" coverage. Over 8,000 fans camped out early to gain priority seating in the stands for national exposure on television. Their energy and noise did not disappoint the "Game Day" announcers and TV audience! That evening the Wildcats

battled the number two ranked Jayhawks as ESPN's nationally televised game, one that was played in front of a wild capacity crowd of 12,528 people. However, for the 21st time in their last 22 meetings in the Coliseum, the Jayhawks prevailed, winning in overtime. The loss dropped the Wildcats to a record of 4-3 in the league, giving the Jayhawks control of the conference race and damaging the Cat's chances of winning the Big 12 title. And, the Jayhawks moved to number one in the national rankings the following Monday.

Time will tell if the Wildcats are to remain successful and continue to play in front of fanatic fans that fill Bramlage to capacity using the "Octagon of Doom" to intimidate their opponents; or if the slogan that resonates today will be allowed to drift to the rafters as a memory only to be brought out on occasion for games against the Jayhawks in front of crowds who don't understand its origin or true significance. "Every Man a Wildcat" hopes the "doom" that is featured this season in Bramlage Coliseum becomes a tradition that hasn't existed since basketball moved there from Ahearn Field House.



Author's note: the author attended men's basketball games in Ahearn Field House, including the grand finale, and has gone to numerous games in Bramlage since it opened.

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Sources: Media guides for men's and women's basketball, K-State Department of Intercollegiate Athletics web pages; University Archives Vertical Files containing newspaper articles and other items documenting K-State's basketball teams; University Archives Photograph Collection; photographs of "Octagon of Doom" scenes in Bramlage courtesy of Carolyn Hodgson; cutout of Michael Beasley courtesy of Mary Radnor; Frank Martin card courtesy of Debbie Wasinger.

"Beware the Ides of March!"

21st in the Keepsakes series, originally published March 9, 2010



While most people associate the Ides of March with the Roman calendar, or Shakespeare's play, *Julius Caesar*, it became part of K-State history in 1916 when the senior class voted to celebrate what became known as Roughneck Day on March 15. The other classes quickly voted to participate in the event which required the students to appear on campus "attired in such a manner that their own mothers would not know them," meaning dressed in the most outlandish clothing possible! It was further reported in the *Kansas State Collegian* that "dire vengeance will be meted out to those who dare to show themselves on the campus not attired according to regulations." While it was believed that students would not suffer the same fate as Caesar, they were advised to "beware the Ides of March" on March 15 or it was possible they would receive some form of hazing or verbal abuse from the upper classmen if they arrived on campus dressed as normal!

An article in the March 18, 1916 edition of the *Collegian* reported that hundreds of male and female students participated, coming as "tramps, capitalists, old women, young women, farmers and dudes...every conceivable costume that could possibly distinguish a 'rough neck' was to be found." Furthermore, "the disregard for conventionalities even went so far as to apply the paddle to those who failed to live up to the motions passed at the various class meetings, that it was to be a day of motley and ragged attire."



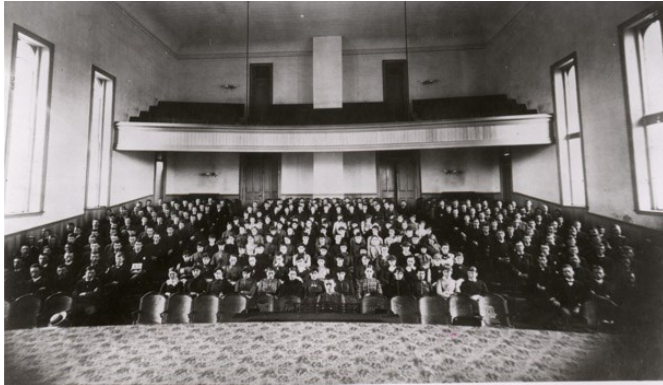
There is no official explanation as to how Roughneck Day got its name, but the message was clear, to come to campus dressed as rough as you could look, and expect the events of the day to resemble the same! In 1923 professor of economics, J. E. Kammeyer, stated that it was the one day of the year "dedicated to those who never shave their necks or wash behind their ears." Others referred to it as a "hobo holiday."

Regardless of its origin, the annual celebration of Roughneck Day occurred every Ides of March from 1916 until, well, read on!

The *Collegian* reported that costumes worn during the second Roughneck Day in 1917 were just as colorful and wild as the first ranging from girls in bathing suits to Charlie Chaplin look a likes.. And, "every conceivable type of humanity" could be found with the "dilapidated hobo" the post popular in terms of numbers; tin cans and buckets were tied to cars and motorcycles to enhance the festivities. It was noted that paddles used on non-participants and rowdiness were less evident than the first year.



Activities common to Roughneck Day included a large turnout at chapel in Anderson Hall where attendance was higher than normal so that students could see and be seen in their strange attire. A parade through town was also part of the festivities and drew a large and



Anderson Hall Chapel, 1888

boisterous crowd consisting of students and residents of Manhattan. While apparently not officially sanctioned, students did not attend classes, especially during the morning. For example, in 1919 students paraded to campus around 7:30 and during a mass meeting decided that "...school was a nuisance and that after 9:00 am classes would be called off for the morning. This decision was backed up by the student body. After first hour everyone was out for a good time and a good laugh." Following a get

acquainted "mixer" students paraded to town and had an impromptu program in a theater and then danced at the Community Building before returning to campus in time for afternoon classes.

By 1923, Roughneck Day had become more formalized and controlled. The president of K-State, William Jardine, made it clear that "if students did not attend the first two classes and use some discretion in their celebration the custom would have to be abandoned." The "Wampus Cats," the official K-State pep organization, was put in charge of the events. They included merriment and dancing in the recreation center and a humorous program in the chapel (both in Anderson Hall) during the morning. Instead of the annual parade ("folks got



too tired hiking down town and back"), a freshman-sophomore Olympics was held during the afternoon consisting of events such as tug-of-war, relay races, and sack fights. Freshmen were advised to turn out and come away victorious or they would have to wear their beanies during the spring baseball season! That evening the entertainment continued with a dance in Nichols Gym for "roughnecks" (35 cents admission) and another at Johnnie's in Aggieville for "highbrows" who wanted to dress up for \$1.10!



The events in 1924 were similar to the previous year. Mandatory attendance for the first two hours of class was followed by organized activities under the direction of the Wampus Cats. The *Collegian* reported that Roughneck Day would be held next year provided the event this year is well organized and college property is not damaged.

Although Roughneck Day was a student initiated and driven "holiday," a review of the articles that appeared in the college newspaper from 1916 through the early 1920s indicate the administration and faculty went along with the event because the entertainment was organized and good clean fun was experienced by a large portion of the student body. However, by the beginning of second semester, 1925, Roughneck Day had out lived its popularity with the administration and faculty, as well as students. In February, President Jardine announced there would not be a Roughneck Day that year and it would be replaced by an Easter vacation from the evening of April 9, a Thursday, through Monday evening, April 13 (this became the first spring break in the history of the college!). He further declared that if any vacation is taken by the students during the "Ides of March," the usual time for Roughneck Day, "his approval of the Easter vacation will be annulled and classes will be held as usual." As reported in the *Collegian* on April 3, 1925, the last few years students had used Roughneck Day as purely a holiday instead of a time for different events for which it was originally intended. Ironically, a major initiative for replacing Roughneck Day with an Easter break came by way of a request from the Student Self Governing Association who believed the entire student body deserved a few days away from campus and the rigors of attending class. Thus, "beware the Ides of March" took on a new meaning at K-State and, like Caesar, Roughneck Day met its impending doom!



Do other colleges have a tradition of roughneck day or roughnecks, you ask? Limited research did not reveal much information other than it is known that the Sooner Schooner, the covered wagon

seen today at the University of Oklahoma football games, is driven by RUF/NEKS, an OU spirit group. The RUF/NEKS earned the name around 1915, about the same time as Roughneck Day was organized at K-State, but there doesn't seem to be any association. A few years after receiving their moniker, the RUF/NEKS began to include paddles as part of their attire.

In closing, it should be noted that the Easter recess was in place at K-State from April 1925 through the second, or spring semester of 1960, usually from Thursday evening until the following Tuesday morning. This meant that Saturday morning classes, which were also on the calendar during this period, did not meet. Easter recess was replaced by a spring break the second semester of academic year 1960-1961 and lasted one calendar week. This university holiday is still being observed so, K-Staters, enjoy "the Ides of March!"

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Sources: Kansas State Collegian, Kansas Industrialist, K-State annual Catalogues, University Archives Photograph Collection (Vertical Files: Roughneck Day and Anderson Hall, and Charles L. Marshall, Sr. Collection), KSU History Index, Wikipedia.

"In Her Own Write"; Women's History Month in the University Archives

22nd in the *Keepsakes series*, originally published March 26, 2010

This month is more than "March Madness," it is National Women's History Month and the perfect



Mamie Alexander Boyd

time to recognize the women's holdings of the University Archives, especially when the theme for this year is "Writing Women Back into History." Just what the University Archives is all about! Focusing on this topic comes with some degree of hesitation because space does not afford the luxury of addressing this challenging topic in the manner in which it deserves; there is a risk that certain women and collections will be overlooked. But if the cliché "the tip of the iceberg" was ever appropriate, this is the time because the women's holdings of University Archives & Manuscripts are vast in quantity and rich in quality!

From the time that K-State was established in 1863 women have played a significant role in its history. When the college opened that year on September 2, half of the 52 students were female as were two of the six faculty listed in the first college catalog published in 1864! Today a multitude of records and collections are available which document the vital role of women at K-State during the last 147 years! In addition, countless personal collections created by women or containing significant information about them have been donated to support research on scholarly topics strategic to the academic programs at K-State, and scholarship on the national level.

To make this *Keepsake* manageable in this limited venue, the collections are organized below according to category or subject with the understanding that many could be listed under more than one area.



Faculty papers. The papers of many outstanding women faculty are preserved in the University Archives. Major examples, their academic disciplines, and dates of contents are as follows: Harriett Parkerson, niece of Isaac Goodnow, one of K-State's founders (K-State and Manhattan history, late 1800s); Nellie Kedzie Jones, Class of 1876 (domestic science, 1882-1955); Mary T. Harmon (zoology, 1912-1952); Vida Harris (art, 1915-1970); Tessie Agan (family economics and consumer issues, 1957-1974); Leone Kell (family economics and homemakers service (1946-

1975); Mary Border (extension home economics in the Middle east, 1953-1967); Ruth Hoeflin

(personal papers and college of home economics historical files, 1875-2001); Virginia Quiring (Farrell Library); Caroline Peine (assistant dean of students, and center for student development, ca 1961-1981); Cornelia Butler Flora (sociology and first female president of faculty senate, 1976-1989); Margo Kren (art and Kansas City Artists Coalition, 1971-2009); Pat O'Brien (anthropology, ca 1970-2008).



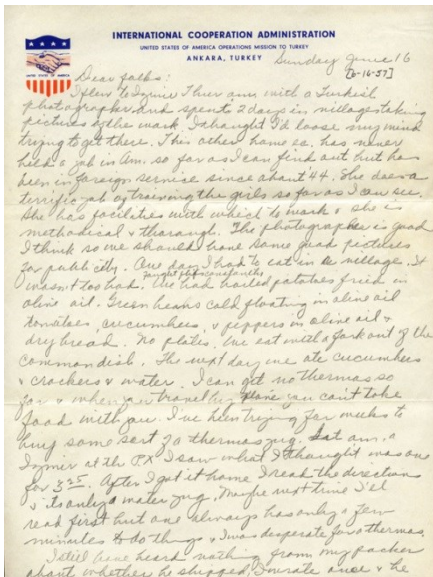
Clementine Paddleford

Alumni and professions. Mamie Alexander Boyd, Class of 1902 (newspaper journalism, rural Kansas, and women's organizations; Boyd Hall named in her honor; 1876-1979); Alice Nichols, '27 (literature, 1914-1961); Marie Rezak Bonebrake (Kansas genealogy and history); Velma Carson, 1915-1919 (literature, 1913-1983); Clementine Paddleford, '21 (food editor, 1925-1967); Sue Dawon, '62 (food editor, 1979-2001).

Student records, papers and organizations. Scrapbooks and photograph albums of approximately 40 students (ca 1895-1940); Domestic Science Club (late 1800s); Smith, Bottomly and Lill Papers (family letters, ca 1934-1945); Boyd Hall (1960), Putnam Hall (1953-1999), and Association of Residence Hall (1968-2001) scrapbooks; Mortar Board (1933-2008); Clovia Scholarship House

(ca 1931-2004); Literary Societies (organizations, late 1800s to per WWII years); 4-H Youth Programs (1913-1960).

K-State records and organizations. Dames/Student Wives Educational Association (1947-1978); Women in Communication (1916-1977); Commission on the Status of Women; University Women's Caucus (1987-1999); Media Relations (former faculty files, ca 1950-2009); Sue Peterson (assistant to the president/director government relations); First Ladies of K-State (material on wives of presidents, 1863-present).



Athletics. photographs, scrapbooks, programs, etc. related to women's sports at K-State (ca 1949-present).

State and national organizations. Kansans for the Equal Rights Amendment / Caroline Peine (1975-1983); Kansas Association of Extension Home Economists (1914-1986); Kansas Extension Homemakers Council (1914-1983); Kansas Association of Family and Community Education; KSU Social Club (1911-present); Kansas Master Farmer-Master Farm Homemaker (1927-1984); Novelists, Inc. (popular fiction writers, 1989-present).

Consumer Movement. Dorothy Willner (International Organization of Consumers Organizations, representative to

United Nations, 1974-1983); Florence Mason (1959-1987).

Cookery. Clementine Paddleford (food editor, 1925-1967); Sue Dawson (food editor, 1979-2001).

Military history. Marjorie Honstead Feldhausen (U.S. Army nurse , 1943-1946); Frances Jennings Casement (letters to husband, General John S. Casement, Union army, 1861-1865); Richard and Marion Boydston (1943-1945); Victor and Alice Roper (1944-1946).

Personal collections. Marion Van Atta (edible & subtropical plants, gardening, 1970-1998); Doris Fenton (Tuttle Creek Dam, 1948-1955); Doris and Leona Velen (Tuttle Creek Dam opposition, 1937-1962); Lenora Herring (poultry); Edna Worthley Underwood (literature/Latin American authors, 1889-1946); Marie Boyd (newspaper journalism and women's organizations, 1929-2003) Martha Keys (U.S. House of Representatives, 1975-1978); Shelia Hochhauser (Kansas House of Representatives, 1988-1966); Marjorie J. Morse (Manhattan and Riley County history).



University Archives collections documenting women. K-State newspapers, photographs, lecture recordings and files (Landon Lectures, Convocations, etc.), faculty publications, "First Ladies of K-State" files that document wives of the presidents, vertical/reference files covering numerous subjects (individuals, organizations, lectures, buildings on campus named after women, etc.).

Descriptions of the majority of the collections identified above can be found by visiting the [University Archives homepage](#); many include links to their "finding aids." A major source of information about the women's holdings related to K-State is available in University Archives & Manuscripts: K-State Women, Selected

Holdings, prepared by Cindy Von Elling in 1995.

Given this impressive information that identifies and recognizes the significant holdings of women in the University Archives, "In Her Own Write" is more than a quotation. It is inherent in the collections that are essential to providing scholarly information needed by students, faculty and distant researchers. It is with this mission in mind that we celebrate National Women's History Month in the University Archives!

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Credits. Photographs from University Archives: Mamie Alexander Boyd Papers, Clementine Paddleford Papers, Subject Files, and 1863 College Catalogue. Quotation used in the title from IN HER OWN WRITE: Women's History Resources in the Library and Archives of the Missouri Historical Society, St. Louis, 1983, edited by Beverly Bishop and Deborah Bolas; published while the author of this Keepsake was Director of Library and Archives at that institution.

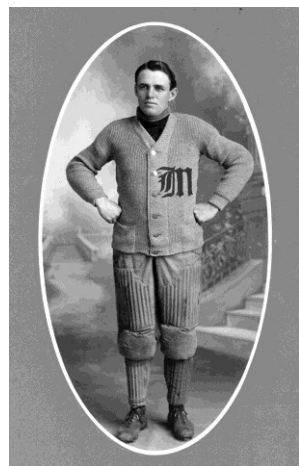
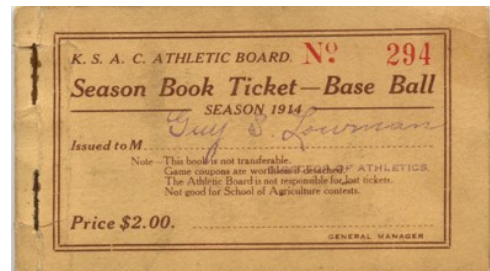
Play Ball! Wildcat Baseball Highlights

23rd in the Keepsakes series, originally published April 27, 2010

College basketball's March (April!) Madness is over and baseball, "America's past time," is now in full swing! The Cats have been ranked among the top 25 teams in the country this spring continuing a rich tradition that dates back to 1897 when the Cats played their first game against a Ft. Riley team on April 7, winning 4-3. The team consisted of a mixture of students and Manhattan residents. Home games were played in City Park and the coach was H.W. Wagner who was captain of the University of Kansas team in 1896! In 1898, after hearing complaints from faculty and students that the team did not represent the college, the Regents voted to limit team membership to K-State students.



Would you believe the Wildcats once played the Chicago Cubs?!?! The Cats and Cubbies took the diamond in Manhattan on April 6, 1905 when the team from Chicago won 13-0 on the way home from spring training in Arizona. Cubs who played that day included Joe Tinker, Johnny Evers, and Frank Chance who made up the legendary double play trio of "Tinker to Evers to Chance" that is part of major league baseball lore (Evers and Chance are now members of the Baseball Hall of Fame). The Cubs lost in the World Series the next year while winning in 1907 and 1908 (their last World Series win).



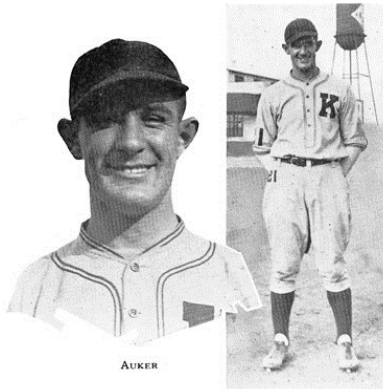
Early firsts in the history of Cats' baseball include: 1897, first home run, by second baseman Whitelock in the school's 4th game against Chapman High School!; May 2, 1905, 1st extra-inning game came against Friends; April 16, 1906, first no hitter by Arthur Furey against College of Emporia; won the "Topeka Conference" in 1907 believed to be the first championship by a varsity team in school history; first double header came against Kansas on June 6, 1908. The Wildcats won the Missouri Valley Conference title in 1928 and in 1930 tied for first place in Big 6 Conference.

Mike Ahearn coached the team from 1907-1911; he resigned with a .734 winning percentage. Over time Ahearn coached every athletic sport at K-State, and served as athletic director! Ahearn Field House is named in his honor.

Among the interesting photographs in the University Archives is that of a beam in the basement of Holton Hall. While the building was undergoing extensive renovation in 1988, the beam was exposed along with a hand written score of a baseball double header with Kansas. According to the Kansas State Baseball Media Guide, the Wildcats swept the Jayhawks 4-3 and 6-5 during the 1907 season.



Elden Auker became the first Wildcat to play in the major leagues pitching for several teams during a 10 year period beginning with the Detroit Tigers in 1933. Among other K-Staters who played in the major leagues were: Butch Nieman, Boston Braves in 1943-1945; Keith "Kite" Thomas for the Philadelphia Athletics and Washington Senators in 1952-1953 (originator of Kites in Aggieville!); Bobby Randle (Minnesota Twins, 1976-1982), who later coached Iowa State and Kansas in the Big 12; and Ted Power played 13 seasons in the major leagues after setting Wildcat records for strikeouts in a single game (19) in 1976.



Elden Auker

In 1973, Andy Replogle became the first recorded Wildcat selected to an All American team, although it is believed there were previous selectees. Replogle later played two seasons with the Milwaukee Brewers. Craig Wilson was K-State's first Big 8 player of the year and became a 1st team all American and member of the Olympic team in 1992; he also played in the major leagues.

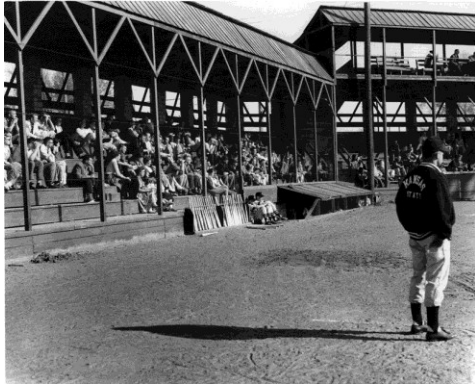
It is widely known that the first African American player in the Big Seven was a K-Stater. Earl Woods, father of professional golfer Tiger Woods, is usually credited with that honor, beginning his Wildcat career in 1952. There is also evidence that Easter Elliott from Richmond, Missouri played on the 1949 and 1950 teams before leaving school. Elliott appears in uniform with the baseball team in a photograph in the 1950 yearbook.

Dave Baker became the first African American baseball coach in the Big 8 in 1978 leading the Cats to 137 wins through the 1983 season.

In 1961, after playing its home games in Griffith Park (located today on south Fort Riley Blvd.), the Wildcats played their first game at the site of its current stadium beating Iowa State, 11-0; the field was named after Frank Myers in 1967. Myers coached the Cats to an 11-5 record during his only year as coach in 1940.



Earl Woods



Griffith Park Stadium

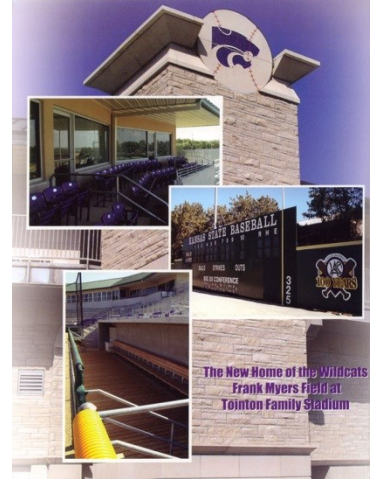
Mike Clark became coach in 1987, winning Big 8 coach of the year in 1990. He stepped down in 2003 after winning over 400 games to become the first K-State coach to post that many victories in any sport.

After the final game of the 1998 season, a complete renovation of Frank Myers Field began; construction delays made it necessary for all of the home games scheduled for the 1999 season to be played at other locations! The \$3.1 million improvements and additions were completed in

2002 and the facility was re-dedicated as Frank Myers Field at Tointon Family Stadium.

The 100th year anniversary of K-State baseball was celebrated during the 2000 when 21 players were inducted into the All-Century Team.

Brad Hill took over for Mike Clark as Wildcat coach in 2004 after leaving Central Missouri State where he led the school to nine consecutive trips to the NCAA tournament



After losing in the finals of the Big 12 tournament in 2008, the Cats had their most successful season in school history in 2009 winning a school record 43 games and going to the NCAA Regional for the first time where they lost to 6th ranked Rice. Brad Hill was selected Big 12 and Midwest Region Coach of the Year, and pitcher A.J. Morris was named the conference's Pitcher of the Year and the school's first consensus All-American. On the left is how the baseball team looked in 1908, 100 years before going to the Big 12 finals!



KSU Baseball Team, 1908

For more information about the team's history, players, and season schedule, visit the K-State baseball [website](#), and get out to Tointon Family Stadium and root, root, root for the home team!

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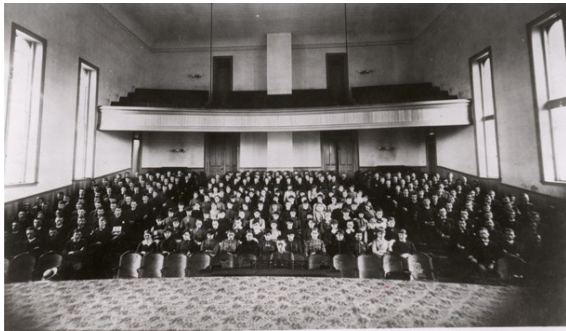
Sources. K-State Sports Baseball Team home page (History Time Line in particular); University Archives, Vertical File-Athletic Department-Baseball Team History (contains newspaper and periodical articles and numerous other items); University Archives Photograph Collection; K-State Sports Information-Baseball Team media guides; Royal Purple yearbooks.

Commencement!

24th in the Keepsakes series, originally published May 11, 2010

“We’ll remember always, graduation day.” No, this Keepsake isn’t a remake of the "oldies but goodies" classic Graduation Day sung by The Lettermen and later the Beach Boys “(and it certainly isn’t a line out of a tune by the same title from Chris Isaak or Kanye West!). It is a potpourri of commencement highlights at K-State!

On September 2, 1863, Kansas State Agricultural College admitted its first class of students at the original Bluemont Central College building located at the northwest corner of Claflin Rd. and College Ave. In June of 1867 commencement ceremonies for the first graduating class were held in the Bluemont chapel. The class consisted of three females and two males who heard the commencement address delivered in Latin and English!

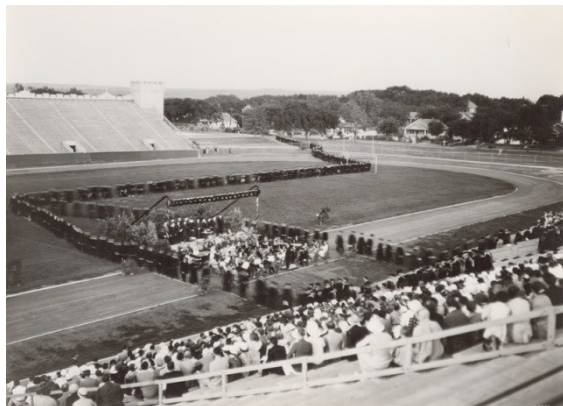


Auditorium

Before long commencement was held in a downtown



Ahearn



Memorial Stadium

church, usually the Presbyterian building at Poyntz Avenue and 4th Street. In 1883 the location shifted to the chapel in the center section of the newly constructed main college building on campus (named Anderson Hall in 1902). Commencement remained there until K-State’s auditorium was available in 1905 (it burned in 1965).

When the graduating class, and the crowd that attended, became too large for the auditorium, efforts were made to hold the exercises in Memorial Stadium, weather permitting; the first commencement in that location was in 1934 (west side).



Ahearn Field House

With the Construction of Ahearn Field House, commencement moved indoors in 1951.

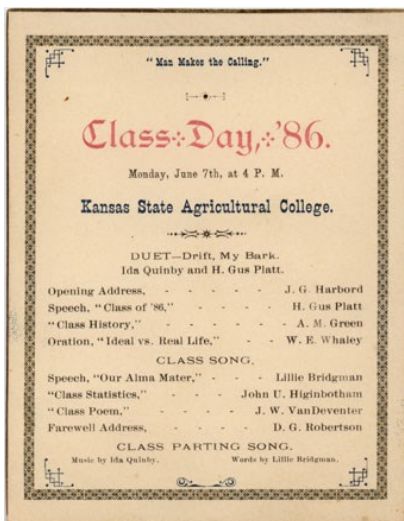
Commencement was held in K-State Stadium after it opened in 1968 (and later McCain Auditorium after it was built in 1970).

With the opening of Bramlage Coliseum in 1988, commencement moved to that site. In May 1991, the All-University commencement ceremony was discontinued, prompted by the uncomfortable length of the event, the size of the class and audience, and

number of individual colleges that wanted their own ceremony. As a result commencement organizers divided the ceremonies between days and locations, including Bramlage, McCain Auditorium and K-State Salina. On May 14 and 15th 2010, approximately 3,000 students will receive undergraduate and graduate degrees from nine colleges and the graduate school. Commencement at K-State Salina is May 8. The Class of 2010 will be the 143rd to graduate from K-State!



The following are a few interesting highlights of K-State commencements past!



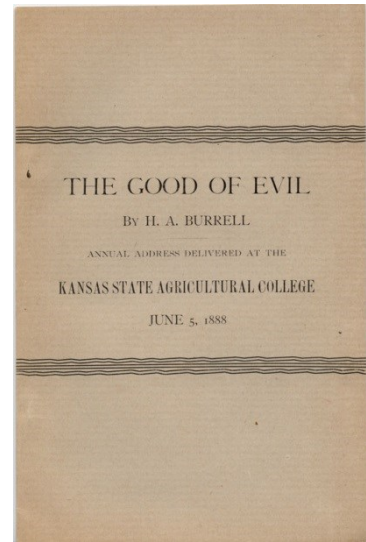
Graduation events during K-State's early history were elaborate and lasted over several days. At different times they included a baccalaureate sermon, speeches, class programs, public examinations, military drill and "sham battle" by the college cadets, and individual orations by each graduate. For example, in 1875, K-State president John Anderson, an ordained minister, delivered the baccalaureate, an address was made before the YMCA, examinations took place over three days, one evening was devoted to the undergraduates' exhibition, another address the next evening then orations by the seniors and commencement exercises in the Presbyterian Church. Individual orations by the graduates were discontinued in the late 1800s when the number became too large; this tradition was replaced by inviting notable speakers to give commencement addresses.

In 1894 the faculty voted for the president to request that members of the audience at public events during commencement week cease from throwing bouquets and other gifts on the stage for the graduates; the presenters were asked to give such items to the ushers for delivery.

In 1880 a public plowing match took place during commencement week!



In the 1880s the foreman of the “Farm and Garden” was instructed to police the campus and have visitors hitch their horses in designated areas only so as not to damage college property.



Prior to 1900, young children had become such a distraction at commencement ceremonies that kids under the age of 12 were excluded from events.

In 1910, president Henry Waters approved the request of the graduating class to wear caps and gowns at commencement after several senior classes had made unsuccessful attempts to have the faculty grant them permission to do so. With the addition of academic dress, came the procession of students, faculty and deans from Anderson Hall to the old auditorium for commencement exercises.

For a number of years the students petitioned to have the faculty and deans to wear academic dress. In 1926, the Council of Deans voted to require those who sat on the platform at commencement to wear caps and gowns.

In 1921 the newspaper reported that the college baseball team held the alumni team scoreless in the annual varsity-alumni game.

The first summer school commencement was held in the auditorium on July 31, 1925.

Governor Frank Carlson presented the commencement address in 1947. He was the first K-State alumnus to serve as governor of Kansas and the first to give a commencement speech.

The first televised commencement took place in June 1960; it was broadcast over WIBW-TV, Topeka. The 2010 commencement will be shown on K-State TV.





An on again, off again commencement tradition has been the inclusion of the “shepherd’s crook.” The senior class created this wooden artifact in 1898 to represent the senior shepherd caring for the undergraduate sheep. That year the senior class attached its colors to crook in the form of ribbons and passed it on to the junior class. For the next 40 years it was the object of pranks when it

was repeatedly stolen and hidden, broken, repaired and finally lost in 1938. It was later found and displayed at class reunions. Beginning in 1994, a brass replica was carried at numerous commencements until the last few years.

Although this Keepsake is not intended to serve as a complete history of K-State’s commencement and graduation ceremonies, readers should find this information interesting and informative as a snap shot of our university’s remarkable past. So, maestro, let “Pomp and Circumstance” begin!



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Selected sources: University Archives including Vertical File-Commencement History, college catalogs, commencement programs, KSU History Index, newspaper articles from the Industrialist and Collegian, Photograph Collection-Subjects, Royal Purple yearbooks, History of Kansas State Agricultural College by Julius T. Willard

"Alma Mater"

25th in the Keepsakes series, originally published August 2, 2010



Looking East Toward the K-State Campus, 1903

In the spring of 1902, students belonging to K-State's literary societies recognized that, unlike other institutions, their school lacked a college song. Feeling that students needed to express their true devotion to K-State through music, a student committee was formed to devise and supervise a contest to select a college song. The contest was announced in the *Students' Herald* (a predecessor to

the *Collegian*) and students and alumni were encouraged to write and submit a song to committee member Sarah Hougham, a senior in the Class of 1903, by October 1, 1902. The winner would receive a \$25 prize and a lasting "reputation"!

In the August 7 issue of the newspaper, students and alumni were implored to take an interest ("We need a song and need it badly"), an interest that had been extremely high several months earlier when the contest was announced. By September only six entries had been received so members of the



committee urged students to "wake up...and get in the humor to write a

rousing good song for K.S.A.C." before the fast approaching deadline. The song committee again begged students to contribute "a first class song" to the contest for a "chance for development and glory"; an advertisement was also placed in the newspaper.



In the October 30, 1902 issue of the *Students' Herald*, it was announced that 14 songs had been submitted and the committee sent three to the judges for consideration, one each from the faculty, alumni, and student body. The judges concluded that none of them were "entirely suited for the purpose of a K.S.A.C. song." Undaunted and adamant that their beloved school needed a college song, the committee

extended the contest to January 8, 1903. Again students were presented the opportunity for their name to become "immortal" and win \$25; similar words were used to lure submissions, "the best

WE WANT

A College Song

\$25 For the Best Production

Contest open to all until October 1. Try to win! Address all correspondence to Miss Sarah Hougham, Manhattan, Kansas.

agricultural college in the best state in the union, is worthy of the best efforts of the best talent in the alumni and student body."

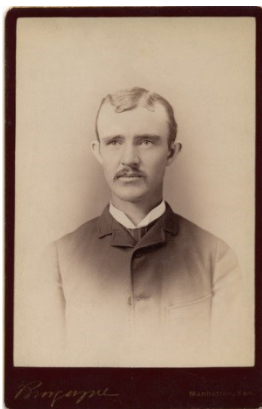
The judges on the College song contest have made their decision, and K. S. A. C. now has a song which it can call its own. The successful competitor is H. W. Jones, '88, of Topeka. Mr. Jones is a teacher of music in the schools of Topeka and his ability as a musical composer is well exhibited in this new production, entitled, "Alma Mater," which has taken the \$25.00 cash prize offered by the literary societies. The song will be published as soon as possible and every one will have the opportunity of purchasing a copy.

[STUDENTS' HERALD, Feb. 28, 1903]

This time, ladies and gentlemen, there was a winner! An announcement in the February 28, 1903 issue of the *Students' Herald* proclaimed that the judges had selected a college song. It was entitled "Alma Mater" and written by Humphrey W. Jones (Class of 1888), a teacher in the Topeka public schools. The song was published by the "Students' Herald Publishing Company" and produced by K-State's printing department; it was included as a supplement in the April 9 issue of the newspaper. Initially, copies were available for

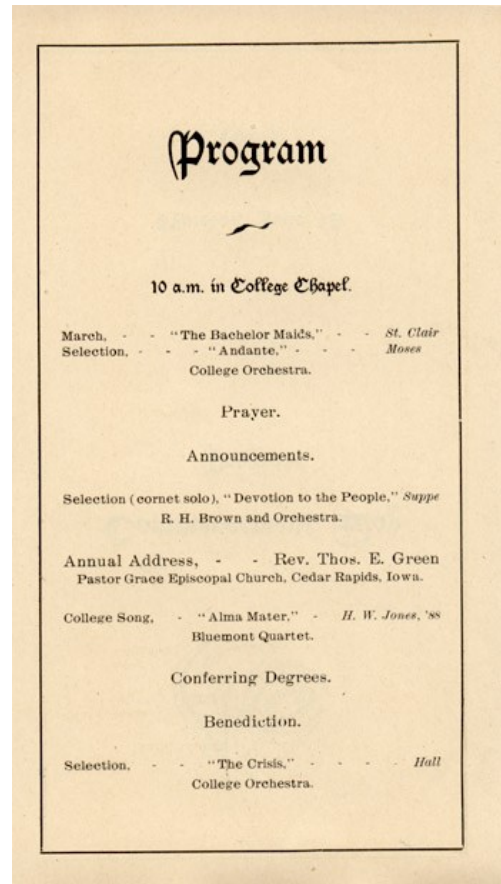
25 cents at the newspaper office or the CO-OP Bookstore, however, on May 8 the newspaper's business manager issued an apology for selling the song at that price after determining the cost of printing it was much lower. The new price for a copy of the "Alma Mater" was now 10 cents! By June 1903, newspaper ads and articles encouraged students to buy copies to take with them as souvenirs once classes ended ("The College song will be a cure for College homesickness this summer")!

In June 1903, the *Industrialist* (the newspaper managed by the college) reported that the song was sung by the "Bluemont Quartet" during commencement on June 18, 1903; this was considered the first public rendition of the piece. It was also sung at the alumni reunion in 1904 which Mr. Jones attended.



Humphrey W. Jones

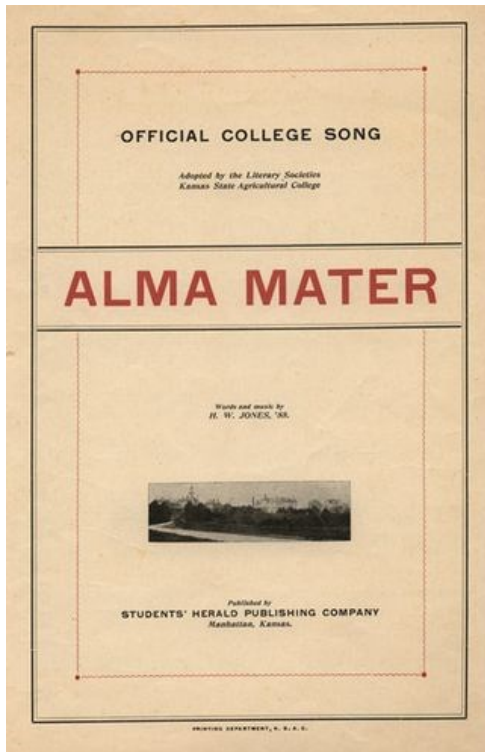
Julius T. Willard (K-State college historian, 1936-1950) summarized the career of Humphrey W. Jones at the time of his death on August 13, 1932 at the age of 67. After graduating from K-State in 1888, Jones attended Kansas State Teachers' College in Emporia and spent his career as a teacher and administrator in Kansas public schools. In 1899 he joined the Topeka school system as supervisor of music where he remained until 1904 when he left to become the principal of Branner School in Topeka. While there he was in charge of the Branner Annex, a school established for the "Mexican" children



in 1918. According to Willard, Jones was credited with "handling delicate situations due to race, class or factional differences." He retired in 1932.

Jones was not only a popular instructor, he was in demand as a speaker at meetings of teacher organizations and parent-teacher groups. He also wrote prose and poetry as well as other pieces of music. He is credited with writing the school song for Topeka High School in 1904 and contributing his royalties to the school's music fund.

Over the years the "Alma Mater" has been criticized by students less than thrilled with the song! For example, in 1947 a number of newspaper articles appeared addressing the appropriateness of the song. Many pieces contained negative comments from students including those of a sophomore in engineering who was quoted in the Collegian, "The students don't like it, don't know it, and besides--it stinks." Others have doubted its validity as the official school song although Julius Willard always insisted that the "Alma Mater" was the authorized song of the college. As one might expect, the song has received support throughout the years and, in spite of periodic debates, surveys, and studies, the "Alma Mater" remains a fixture at university events; except for "K.S.A.C." being replaced by "KSU," the words have remained constant for over 107 years! "Hail! Hail! Hail! Alma Mater."



"Alma Mater"

I know a spot which I love full well,
'Tis not in forest nor yet in dell;
Ever it holds me with magic spell--
I think of thee, Alma Mater.

KSU, carry thy banner high!
KSU, long may thy colors fly!
Loyal to thee thy children will swell the cry,
Hail! Hail! Hail! Alma Mater.

(Jones also included second and third verses when he submitted the song in 1903).

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Sources in University Archives consulted: Students' Herald, Industrialist, KSU History Index, "Humphrey William Jones" by Julius T. Willard.

K-Hill

26th in the Keepsakes series, originally published October 26, 2010



View of K-Hill from Bluemont Hill, 2010

When asked to describe what the Manhattan area might look like, it can be assumed that strangers to the "Little Apple" with images of Dorothy and Toto dancing in their heads would never conger up descriptors such as scenic hills, tree lined streets, flowing rivers, and large lakes. But wait, there's more! A "mountain" high enough to adorn large white concrete "KS" letters to look over a valley is also part of the landscape, letters that proclaim, "'Hollywood,' California ain't got nothin' on Manhattanville!"

So how did a monogram gain the tradition of standing watch over a college town? You have to go back over a century to find a trace of such an idea when in 1908 a battle ensued over the side of Bluemont Hill (east of campus and north of downtown) between those supporting the placement of the letters KSC and others who insisted that an A for agriculture had to be included. Therefore, shortly after KSC first appeared on Bluemont Hill, objectors replaced the S with an A, making it KAC. The nocturnal switcheroo of letters by their supporters even included a KSAC version on the slope. However, the stone changers soon abandoned their causes leaving the opportunity for Prospect Hill across the Kansas River on the other side of town to become the permanent home for K-State's initials a few years later. Bluemont Hill did not go neglected; it became the home for "MANHATTAN" in 1927.



Manhattan, circa 1900



In 1915 plans were developed by engineering students on campus to construct a K on the side of Prospect Hill (the current site of the letters KS) but the project never got off the ground (pun intended!). The K-Hill that is familiar to Manhattanites and K-Staters today became a reality in 1921 when groups of engineering students met several times starting in April to prepare a formal plan for constructing a giant K on the hill. Engineering students were dismissed from classes, freshmen and juniors in the morning and sophomores and seniors in the afternoon to work on the K. The proceedings began in Aggieville where a brass band led a parade of engineering students and others to the top of Prospect Hill. Horse drawn wagons loaded with sand and water were taken there to make the concrete, and rocks had to be gathered and crushed. The letter, costing approximately \$350, measured 80 by 60 feet and included a bronze star in the center to honor K-State students who sacrificed their lives in World War I. The location became known as K-Hill (today it is also referred to as KS Hill).



Not content with a solitary K, engineering students under the leadership of Sigma Tau honorary society raised \$500 in 1930 to finance the construction of an S. It took one day of hard labor to clear and level the land next to the K and on May 10 students were dismissed from class to finish the letter.



When rain halted work around noon, one account reported that students adjourned downtown to the Manhattan Community Building where they were served barbeque sandwiches. With the stoppage of rain, they returned and



completed the S that evening. With an U.S. Army spotlight on the letters, the honorary society presented the S to the city and college.

Unstable ownership of the land proved worrisome to the engineering students and college because a long term agreement with land owners was necessary. Sigma Tau attempted to purchase the land on which the letters resided but the cost was prohibitive. In the spring of 1947 it was able to obtain the 220 foot wide strip of land that included the letters plus room for a third initial along with easement rights to the property. In exchange, fraternity members

agreed to survey and subdivide the property for the land owners, A.F. and Anna E. Woodman. Sigma Tau was able to receive a deed to the property; however, the honorary fraternity could not legally retain ownership. At a college assembly on October 16, 1947, the deed was presented to the college by professor L.V. White, adviser to Sigma Tau. President Milton Eisenhower accepted it for K-State.

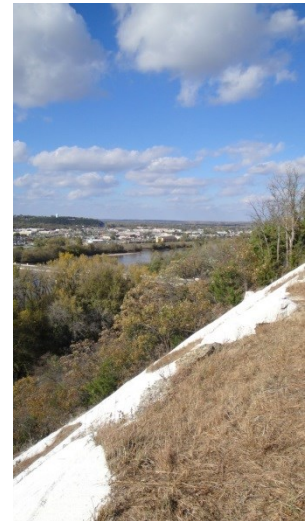


Many people may wonder why not a letter U on the hill side? Feasibility studies revealed that a large gully existed where the U would reside making,



the cost for filling in and stabilizing the land substantial. In 2003 it was estimated that the price for ground work alone would be at least \$200,000.

While lovely to look at from campus and Manhattan, events atop the hill have not always been heavenly. In 1987 a pickup truck was set afire and pushed down the hillside; a driver was injured when her car accidentally tumbled down the hill in 1999; also that year, four people were injured when a car driven by a 14 year old plunged down the slope; and the next year a man was reportedly stabbed by four men who attacked him during the night. In addition, it was not uncommon for Jayhawk fans to redecorate a letter or two with red or blue paint!



Visitors to the vista have not always been litter free and everything from beer bottles to sofas has found their way over the edge. Although the members of the engineering honorary society Tau Beta Pi (which replaced Sigma Tau in 1973) have routinely sponsored the maintenance of the letters, the hillside down to McDowell Creek Road at the bottom is owned by the university. Nonetheless, on at least one occasion since 2000, students with assistance from Riley County work crews have cleared the area of debris.

Given the events chronicled above, it is understandable why a locked gate was put at the bottom of the gravel road that leads over

privately owned land to the top of the hill. Apparently vandalism to a cellular phone tower near the letters was the deciding factor in closing access to vehicles. From the lack of reported incidents on the hill it is apparent that trouble declined once cars were banned around 2000.

K-Hill was accused of displaying another type of litter in 1985 when an assistant professor of environmental design at K-State wrote a letter to the editor of the *Collegian* calling the KS letters "graffiti on the countryside landscape" which indicated "disrespect for the land" by the honorary society. The professor went on to ask for the removal of the K and S. The letter did not go unanswered. A senior in construction science took the professor to task in a response published in the newspaper.



An impressive constant since 1921 has been the commitment of the members of Sigma Tau, Tau Beta Pi, and engineering students to maintain and paint the letters. From afar, it may seem like an easy task for students to white wash the letters and keep the area free from vegetation. As the images included here illustrate, considerable risk is involved as the slope of the hill is nearly vertical. As one can see, the ropes tethered to students are not

there for show!

For those who appreciate what the letters add to the atmosphere and tradition of Manhattan and K-State, and others who take the initials for granted, the thousands of students who have been responsible for their construction and upkeep since 1921 are owed a debt of gratitude for the letters that have maintained their vigil over the community and campus for almost 90 years! Like football season, fall brings the long standing ritual of cleaning and whitewashing the letters by engineering students and thereby providing an alternative meaning to the yell, "Go K-State!"





Members of Tau Beta Pi on K-Hill, October 10, 2009

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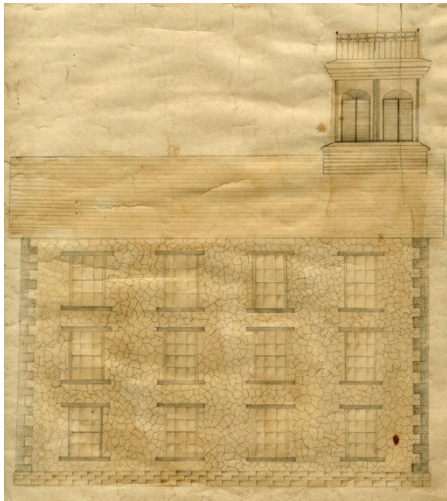
Sources: University Archives Vertical File-Subject: K-Hill: contains newspaper and periodical articles from the Kansas Industrialist, Kansas State Collegian, K-Stater, Kansas State Engineer, Student's Herald, and Manhattan Mercury. Photographs: University Archives-Subjects-K-Hill; recent scenic views courtesy the author; views of students on K-Hill in 2009 courtesy Tau Beta Pi, College of Engineering.

The Kansas Sesquicentennial & K-State!

27th in the Keepsakes series, originally published January 27, 2011

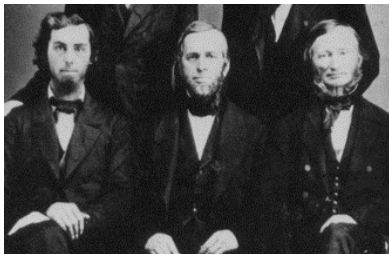


On January 29, 2011, the State of Kansas celebrates its Sesquicentennial! When the State was admitted to the Union in 1861, Kansas State University was already in existence! Well, not exactly! You see, Bluemont Central College opened its doors in Manhattan on January 9, 1860, one year before statehood; then Bluemont College begat Kansas State Agricultural College on February 16, 1863; and KSAC begat Kansas State College for Agriculture and Applied Science on March 9, 1931; finally, KSC begat Kansas State University for Agriculture and Applied Science on March 27, 1959! You get the point! Furthermore, K-State is the oldest public institution of higher learning in Kansas and will celebrate its own sesquicentennial in 2013!



Line drawing of Bluemont

The majority of settlers in the Manhattan area came from New England as "free staters" in an effort to keep Kansas Territory from entering the Union as a "slave" state under the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854.

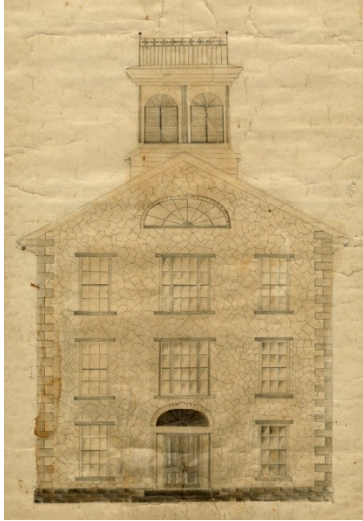


Marlatt, Denison, Goodnow

The act allowed the residents of a territory to decide by popular sovereignty if the state would become slave or free.



Many of Manhattan's residents were well educated and they wanted their children to have the same opportunity to learn as they had back East. Among those were Washington Marlatt, Joseph Denison and Isaac Goodnow, who were allowed by the legislative assembly of the Territory to form a Bluemont Central College Association to promote education and science, and locate a college in the

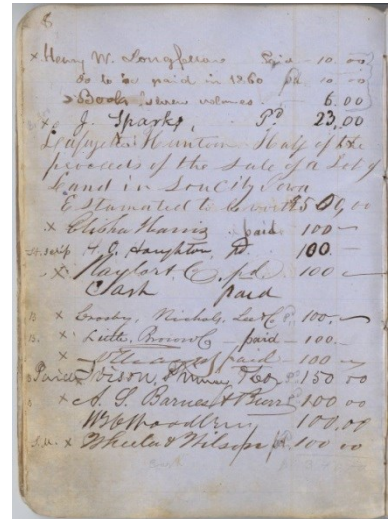


Manhattan area. It could include a literary department of arts and sciences and an agricultural department.

After Association members raised funds in the East, and locally, a building was constructed in 1859 at what is now the northwest corner of Claflin Rd. and College Ave. The three story native limestone structure measured 44 x 66 feet. When Bluemont Central College opened on January 9, 1860, there were 53 students. Washington Marlatt was the principal and Julia Bailey the assistant. In spite of the name "College," all of the instruction was delivered at the elementary level as the students did not have high

school degrees. This was the institution that was in place when Kansas entered the union in 1861 and in 1863 when Bluemont's assets were transferred to the State to become KSAC. Bluemont was razed in 1883 after instruction moved to Farm Machinery Hall on the present campus site in 1875.

Kansas State University has played a proud and impressive role in Kansas history and it continues to serve the state, country, and beyond as the "first land grant college in the nation!" Happy Sesquicentennial, Kansas!



Goodnow's Account Ledger



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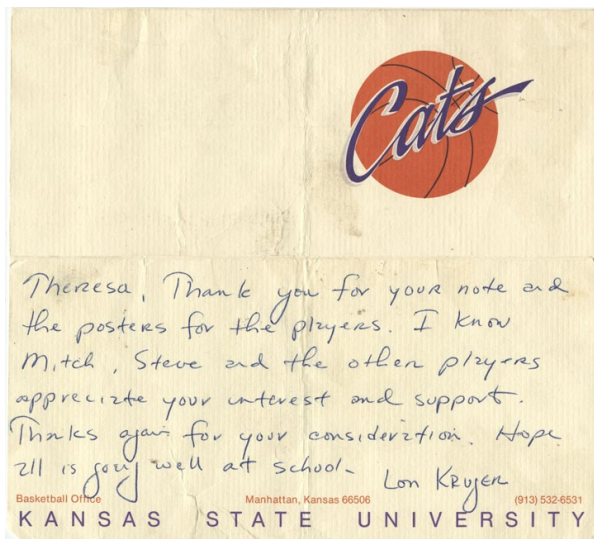
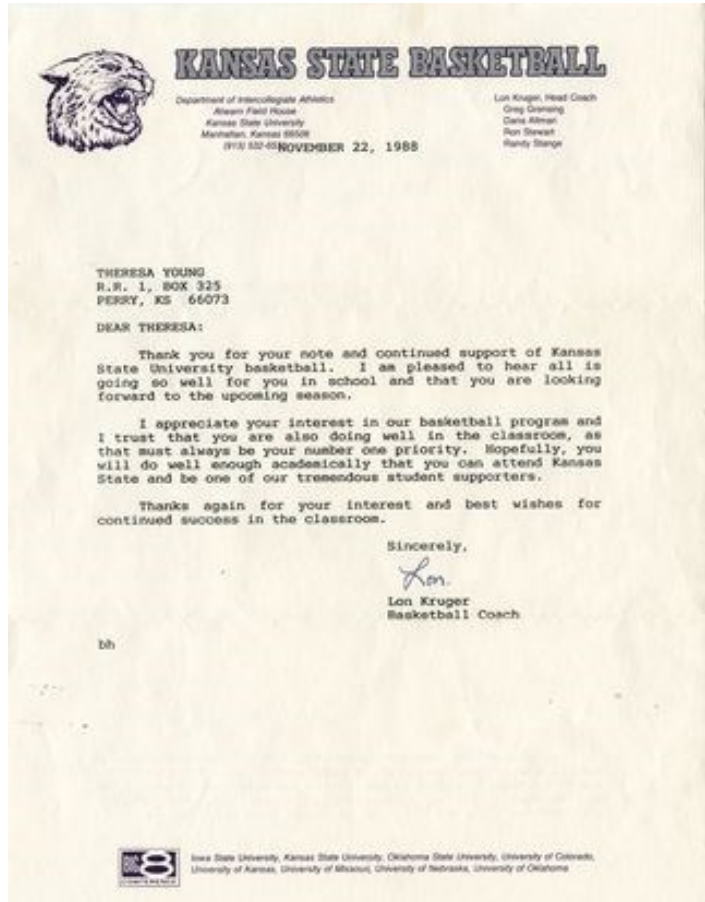
Sources: History of Kansas State College of Agriculture and Applied Science by Julius T. Willard; photographs from University Archives; for more information about the founding of Bluemont College, see K-State Keepsakes #10: Birth of a College.

Lon Kruger Returns to K-State

28th in the Keepsakes series, originally published April 6, 2011

Well, not exactly! However, two letters Kruger wrote to an elementary school student in Kansas while coaching at K-State in 1988 have returned to campus in the sense that they were donated recently to the Morse Department of Special Collections! While in grade school in the Perry school district, Theresa Young wrote two letters of support to K-State basketball coach Lon Kruger and the team; 23 years later she donated Kruger's replies (one typed and one hand written) to the University Archives. In the correspondence, Kruger encouraged Theresa to do well in the classroom so that, hopefully, she could "attend Kansas State and be one of our tremendous student supporters."

Today, Theresa is doing well at K-State as a graduate student in history while working at the Help Desk in Hale Library! Her appreciation for history



influenced her decision to approach the University Archives about donating the letters to preserve a piece of Wildcat history and the kindness that Coach Kruger demonstrated to a young admirer of the Cats!

For those uninitiated in K-State basketball lore, Kruger, a native of Silver Lake, Kansas, was the Big 8 Player of the Year in 1972 and 1973 when he led the Wildcats to back-to-back conference titles under coach Jack Hartman. Kruger returned to K-State and coached the Cats to four straight NCAA tournament appearances, 1986-1990, making the Elite 8 in 1988. After leaving K-State, Kruger was head coach at Florida and Illinois

before coaching in the professional ranks with the Atlanta Hawks (head coach) and New York Nicks (assistant).



Kruger in his college days

Next basketball season, Kruger will again return to K-State, only this time as the leader of the Oklahoma Sooners! After spending the last seven years as the highly successful head coach of the University of Nevada Las Vegas, he accepted the head coaching position at the University of Oklahoma on April 1! Kruger's long-time assistant, Steve Henson, will join him at OU. Henson, from McPherson ("I grew up loving K-State"), played under Kruger the four years the Cats went to the NCAA tournament. An

All Big 8 selection and holder of numerous K-State records, Henson played six years in the National Basketball Association.

This *Keepsake* adds a new twist to the motto, "Every Man a Wildcat!"



Kruger returns to K-State



Steve Henson and Lon Kruger

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Sources: Theresa Young, Jack Hartman Papers, University Archives Photograph Collection, Kansas State Basketball media guides

Wildcats Rock!

29th in the Keepsakes series, published May 27, 2011

In this day of mp3, iTunes, YouTube, streaming, downloading, expensive, live concerts, CDs, it is intriguing to hear about performers who have rocked K-Staters since 1960. Current students may be



Def Leppard Concert

too young to recognize the names of many music stars who entertained the Wildcats during the earlier decades, even though they might recognize their hits. The performers in Ahearn Field House, McCain Auditorium, Bramlage Coliseum, and outdoors were often the biggest and baddest names of time! Bramlage has seen its share of rock stars, the Beach Boys played that facility's first concert in 1988, Queensryche in 1991, and Jason Durelo performed in 2011, for example. However, the list pales in comparison with Ahearn Field House in previous decades when it comes to the number

of concerts. So, let's take a look at an unofficial and purely subjective list of members in K-State's rock and roll hall of fame, along with one of their hits.

Bad Company (1991), "Feel Like Makin' Love"

Beach Boys (1988), "Good Vibrations"

Harry Belafonte (1967), "Day O"

Chicago (1979 & 1985), "Does Anybody Really Know What Time It Is?"

Def Leppard (1988), "[Bringin on the Heartache](#)"

John Denver (1973), "Rocky Mountain High"

Dixie Chicks (2000), "[Long Time Gone](#)"

Doobie Brothers (1978), "[Listen to the Music](#)"

Electric Light Orchestra (1977), "[Evil Woman](#)"

Fifth Dimension (1969), "[Age of Aquarius](#)"

Jethro Tull (1976), "Too Old to Rock and Roll, too Young to Die"

Billy Joel (1980), "Piano Man"

Johnny Mathis (1985), "Chances Are"

Willie Nelson (1988), "On the Road Again"

Pointer Sisters (1976), "[Slow Hand](#)"

Helen Reddy (1988), "[I am Woman](#)"

REO Speedwagon (1974), "[Keep on Loving You](#)"

Righteous Brothers (1966), "[You've Lost that Lovin' Feelin'](#)"

Leon Russell (1981), "[Heartbreak Hotel](#)"

Soul Asylum, (1995), "[Runaway Train](#)"

Temptations (1971), "[Papa Was a Rollin' Stone](#)"

Three Dog Night (1971), "[Joy to the World](#)"

UFO. (1976), "[Too Hot to Handle](#)"

But, wait, there's more at the tip of the iceberg! Among those who made an appearance at K-State between 1960 and 2011 include Leon Bibb, Bread, Brewer and Shipley, Harry Chapin, Cowsills, Emerson Lake and Palmer, Ben Folds, Flying Burrito Brothers, Four Preps, Janis Ian, Lee Greenwood, Jefferson Starship, Kansas, B. B. King, Los Lonely Boys, Marshall Tucker Band, Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, Ozark Mountain Daredevils, Pure Prairie League, Seals and Crofts, Shooting Star, Billy Squier, and the beat goes on...

**Doobies
dazzle
campers**



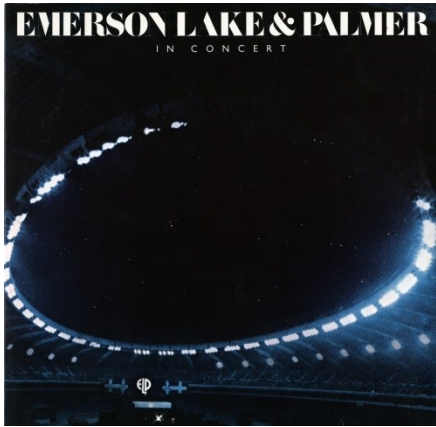
Still, a "*Keepsake*" does not allow the space for more names to be listed, nevertheless, from this roster most of you should agree that K-State has attracted a large and somewhat diverse number of big name performers during their prime. The styles of music are certainly diverse, however, it should be noticeable that African Americans and women are underrepresented.

After World War II numerous performers visited campus representing several musical genres: folk (Limelites, Glenn Yarbrough); jazz and "big band" (Count Basie, Dave Brubeck, Nina Simone, Duke Ellington); pianists (Peter Nero); brass (Canadian Brass, Tijuana Brass, Al Hirt); country (Garth Brooks, Lee Greenwood, Roger Miller); etc. Even so, many of them crossed over and recorded at least one tune that made it to rock's "top 40." Also, we should understand that back in the day "rock 'n' roll" had a much broader definition.



Helen Reddy

Although big name "rock" groups still perform at K-State, the numbers began to decline in the mid-1980s. Articles in the *Collegian* over the years provide enlightening details regarding patterns in K-State's rock history. Students have always been vocal about their desire for more performers to grace the campus: "\$40,000 + 8 Months = 1 Concert" (1976), yet, in so many cases, the turnouts were disappointing ("Ticket sales remain slow: money, scheduling could be factors"). At other times, unpopular groups were booked ("K-State doesn't need kiddie band," "Concert a bummer"). Another problem has been the facilities ("Facilities keep super-groups away"). How about this headline? "Drug use at ELP [Emerson, Lake, and Palmer] highest in K-State history" (wonder what made the *Collegian* reporter who penned that headline an authority on the subject?!?)



In the last few years, the McCain Performance Series has been more diverse in its booking of rock/pop entertainers. For example, Janis Ian, Kansas, and Los Lonely Boys performed during the 2010-2011 season. Certainly, these are not rock concerts on the level of those in larger venues and it is questionable if large crowds would flock to Bramlage to experience their music, nonetheless, McCain is providing the people in the Manhattan area a taste of rock from well-known performers!

It appears that K-State has become a victim of 21st century live concert big business in terms of the ability to attract mainstream rock stars on a regular basis: the expenses involved in booking a big name performer; Manhattan's location as it relates to the one night concert circuit; small population base; small indoor venues which don't allow high tech special effects, etc.

The performance in Bramlage by Soul Asylum on Oct. 2, 1995 illustrates the iffy proposition of sponsoring a concert at K-State. According to the 1996 *Royal Purple*, 1,200 attended the event sponsored by the Union Program Council (Bramlage holds approximately 12,500 for basketball games). The actual loss was not provided but it was "...below the original \$40,000 estimation"! And \$4,000 was spent on advertising.



In contrast, the Dixie Chicks' concert in Bramlage on October 12, 2000 drew "about 7,000" at \$45 a ticket. Even though Bramlage administrators hoped to fill 9,800 seats, "It was the highest grossing event in Bramlage's 12 year history." The group needed 12 semi-trailer trucks to bring its equipment, along with 70 crew members, plus an additional 75 student and community stagehands once they arrived, to set up for the performance!

No doubt this information reminds many readers of Manhattan's successful Country Stampede (which usually includes a "rock" group such as Lynyrd Skynyrd), nonetheless, it has yet to be proven

that booking country entertainers for one night stands in K-State facilities on a consistent basis would be successful ("Willie Nelson a financial flop"). Maybe a more interesting hypothetical situation would be the potential success of a multiday outdoor festival with live performances by Lady Gaga, Beyonce, Adele, Kanye West, Foo Fighters, and, dare I say, Justin Bieber? Prairiestock? Bill Snyder Family Stadium? Easy to say it will never happen... but you get the picture!

On that note, if you want to learn more about K-State's rock 'n' roll history, visit the University Archives in Hale Library! Rock on!

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Sources: Royal Purple; Collegian; University Archives-Vertical Files; ELP and Bad Company album covers from the Jerry Wexler Collection, Morse Dept. of Special Collections; Internet for information regarding performers and hit songs: photographs, Royal Purple and University Archives.

The Konza Prairie; 40 Years of Earth, Wind, and Fire, 1971-2011

30th in the Keepsakes series, originally published October 25, 2011



In 1971, about the time a new pop band, Earth, Wind & Fire, was producing its first hit album, a preserve to study nature's version of those astrological elements was officially established on the prairie approximately 8 miles south of Manhattan. The Konza Prairie Research Natural Area, renamed the Konza Prairie Biological Station (KPBS) in 2000, was created through the joint efforts of The Nature Conservancy and Kansas State University as a field research station operated by the Division of Biology.

SUBJECT <i>Farm Houses</i>	DEPT. NUMBER	ORDERED BY <i>R.F.</i>	DATE TAKEN <i>Sept 1944.</i>	PHOTO NO. <i>1A.</i>
GUIDE TITLES <i>Stone Construction</i>	SIZE OF NEGATIVE			
DATA				
<i>Ranch house and Orville Burtis Ranch James Dewey Ranch.</i>				
<i>Big house three floors. Basement includes Kitchen dining room Lambchop room Chesty & storage. 2nd floor</i>				
<i>1st floor Large living room Office bath 2 bedrooms and bath above</i>				
<i>2nd floor Large bunk room Small bedrooms bath</i>				
<i>2 large fireplaces in Living room & dining room</i>				



Dewey House Notecard, 1944

The concept for a research area for ecological research began with Lloyd Hulbert (professor in the department of plant pathology and botany, later biology) as early as 1956 but without land and other means, a prairie preserve remained in limbo. The stars fell into place for K-State when The Nature Conservancy, through funds provided anonymously by Katharine Ordway, was able to purchase an initial track of land along Interstate 70. With the funds came the stipulation that the site be given a Native

American name. Konza, a variation of Kansa, the name of a tribe native to the state, was selected. Ordway, known as the "lady who saved the prairie," was responsible for funding the purchase of prairie lands throughout the United States. With donations from Ordway, the KPBS expanded to incorporate



Dewey Barn



Dewey House

8,600 acres of grasslands, including the Dewey Ranch house and barn (constructed in 1911-1912). Purchased in 1977, the house became known as the Hulbert Center for Research when it was renovated in 1997. The barn underwent a major renovation in 2008 and became the KPBS Meeting Hall. Today, John Briggs serves as director of the KPBS.

The KPBS is dedicated to long-term ecological research, education, and prairie conservation. In 1980 the Konza Prairie Long-Term Ecological Program (LTER) was one of the first six such initiatives funded by the National Science Foundation. Since the program officially began 30 years ago in 1981, the focus of the LTER has been on fire, grazing, and climatic variability.

The most dramatic and visible research activity of the KPBS and LTER is the burning of the prairie.



Often misunderstood by observers, the program of controlled burns of the grasslands on an annual basis keeps the land free of trees and other woody vegetation. This burning is vital to the prairie ecosystem because it promotes new and nutritional growth of the native grasses. In addition, burning allows researchers the opportunity to study how fire impacts the species living on the Konza Prairie. Other studies involve the effects of fire between elements such as carbon and nitrogen, soil and plants. David Hartnett, K-State biology professor and former director of the KPBS, stated "...fire is absolutely essential to maintaining the prairie."



Another characteristic of the original prairie was the presence of bison. Their grazing provided another natural process for maintaining the native grasslands. With the increase in acreage and the introduction of range management and grazing programs (and construction of a large fence!), bison were reintroduced to the Konza Prairie in 1987.

To enable the public to experience the Konza, there are 3 hiking trails of different lengths totaling over 13 miles. They allow visitors to experience woods, creeks, limestone ledges as well as grasslands with impressive views of the Flint Hills.



The KPBS celebrated another milestone in 2011; the 15th anniversary of the Konza Environmental Education Program (KEEP) directed by Valerie

Wright. KEEP provides programming at the Konza Prairie site for school, youth, and adult groups

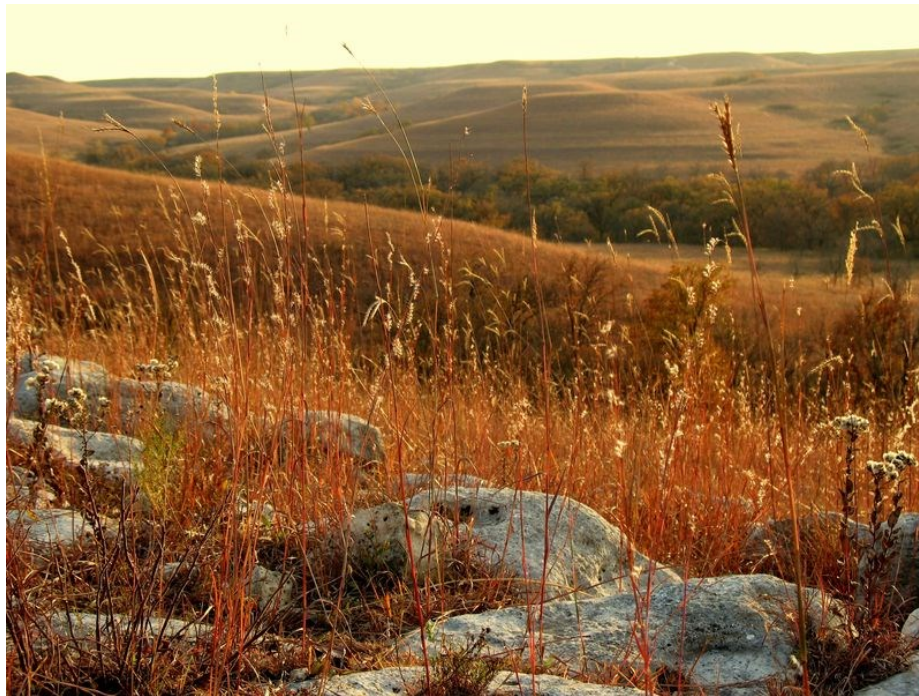


School group exploring a Konza stream

through a variety of educational experiences, including curriculum-based activities related to science, mathematics and social studies. Docent activities and Friends of the Konza Prairie organization have proved to be very successful components of this program. Mike Haddock, assistant dean of the K-State Libraries, serves as president of the Friends in 2011.

To celebrate the contributions of the various programs of the KPBS and the LTER, the Institute for Grassland Studies hosted a symposium at K-State in September 2011. "Grasslands in a

Global Context" featured keynote speakers and attendees from around the world.



During the four decades since the KPBS was established in 1971, its research programs have made the earth a better place to live!

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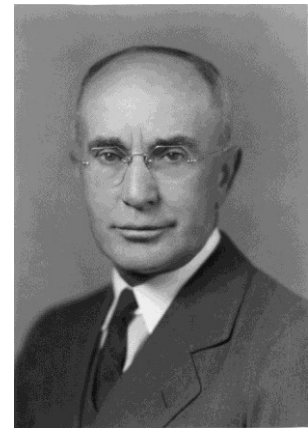
Sources: KPBS Historical Records (University Archives), Vertical Files-Konza Prairie, publications of the KPBS and photographs from the Univ. Archives and courtesy the KPBS, Friends of Konza Prairie, and Edward Sturr.

Remembering Pearl Harbor Day

31st in the Keepsakes series, originally published December 7, 2011

On December 7, 1941 the approximately 3,700 students enrolled at Kansas State Agricultural College learned that the Japanese had attacked Pearl Harbor. While the military situation in the world was of interest, most of the focus was on Germany and Europe until that historic event.

There was a degree of ambivalence on the K-State campus about Nazi Germany at the time. A bill requiring male students to take military training in their first two years narrowly passed the state legislature in 1935, and a large group of students protested this requirement to K-State's president, Francis D. Farrell. As late as January 1941 an editorial in the *Collegian* accused American youth of secretly admiring Nazi Germany and ignoring its threat to freedom. A few days later another editorial refuted those views. The *Collegian* also reported that students were divided on their support of the Lend Lease program to provide supplies to allied countries. The influence of the military at the time was reflected in the clothing that coeds wore that included "wide leather belts, regimental stripes, uniform fabrics, and white or gold embroidered eagles."



Francis Farrell

National defense became more prevalent by March 1941 when approximately 1,300 K-State male students were required to register for the draft. Still, an article in the *Collegian* expressed the view that a college education and the training of the brain was just as important as preparing for battle.



The Collegian, December 9, 1941

All of this changed with the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor by Japan seventy years ago killing approximately 2,500 Americans in military service. Two days later the *Collegian* strongly rebuked Japan's action and favored a declaration of war, "Collegians Stand Firm in Indignation at Japs, Favor War" (the newspaper was not published on Mondays).

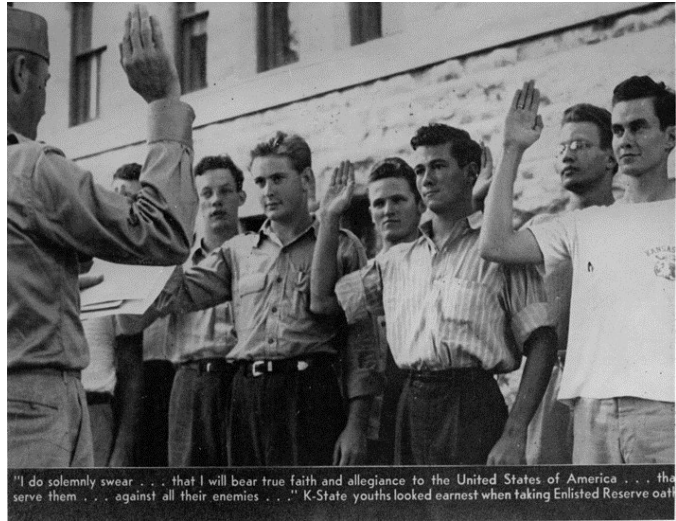
The front page included a piece by President Farrell calling for students to be responsible for contributing in every way towards winning the war by remaining calm and avoid saying or doing things that would increase confusion and incite disorder, doing their work as well as possible every day, and preserving a sense of humor.

Male students who were 21 or older on July 1, 1941 were ordered to a general seminar in the College Auditorium on December 10 and to bring their Selective Service registration card.

As expected, enrollment declined during the war years to a low point of around 1,500 in 1944 (when the troops returned home enrollment rose to almost 7,500 by 1948!).



At one time at least 109 members of the faculty were on leave to aide in the war effort by involvement in military service, government agencies, or war industries. Programs were established to educate and train people through the Army Specialized Training Program and the Reserve Officers Training Program (R.O.T.C.). For example, a total of 1,973 men received Air Corps training at K-State.



Milton Eisenhower Space does not permit even a summary of all the war time activities and programs on campus after Pearl Harbor; curriculum changes, dissemination of defense information, conservation drives, etc. Coeds even sold war stamps at fifty cents a kiss! Of significance was President Farrell's decision in January 1943 to leave the college. He was replaced by Milton S. Eisenhower, the only native Kansan and K-State alumnus (1924) to hold the office.

The war took its toll on the lives of K-Staters. Estimates differ but one account indicates that over 7,000 Wildcats served in the conflict with as many as 200 making the ultimate sacrifice. On May 30, 2011 a World War II Memorial was dedicated to those who served including at least 10 K-Staters who were stationed in Hawaii on December 7, 1941.



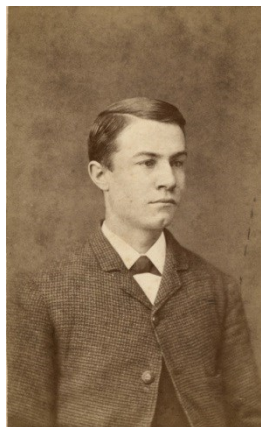
World War II Memorial

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Sources: Carey, James C. Kansas State University: The Quest for Identity. Chapter 8; "War Again and an Eisenhower Comes Home." Kansas State Collegian. December 9, 1941. University Archives photograph collection.

Julius T. Willard--Mr. K-State History!

32nd in the Keepsakes series, originally published January 25, 2012

Numerous K-State alumni and students on campus today recognize Willard Hall, many having attended classes in the building, primarily chemistry and more recently art. However, it is doubtful that most are aware of the structure's namesake, Julius Terrass Willard, even though he has a longer official association with K-State than anyone in the history of the university, 71 years!



Willard in 1882

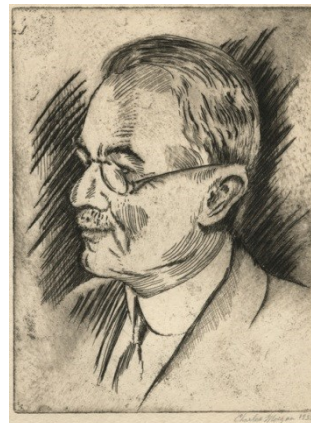
Willard was born on a farm in Wabaunsee County, Kansas, in 1862, the same year the Morrill Act establishing the Land Grant College system was passed and signed by President Abraham Lincoln. Willard's father, Julius E. Willard, was a member of the New Haven colony known as the Beecher Bible and Rifle Company that settled in the area.

His mother, Mary Elizabeth Terrass, was the daughter of one of the first settlers of Alma. In 1884 he married Lydia Pierce Gardiner of Wakarusa, Kansas; they had one son, Charles Julius Willard, who graduated from K-State in 1908. Willard entered K-State as a student in 1879 and graduated in

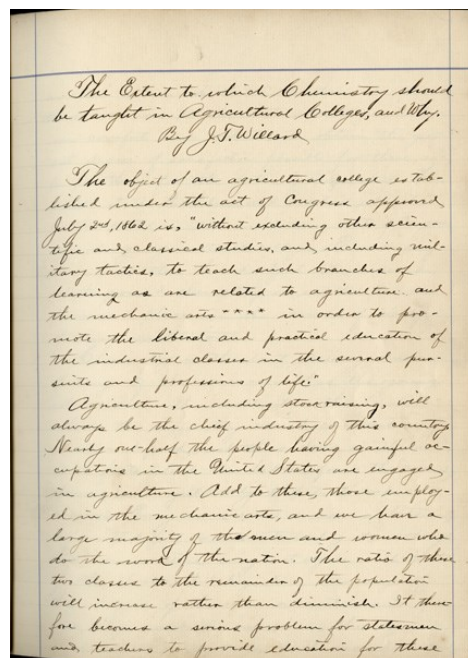
1883 with a degree in general science.

In 1886 he was awarded a master of science degree (thesis title: *The Extent to which Chemistry should be Taught in Agricultural Colleges and Why*). The college conferred the doctor of science degree upon him in 1908. Except for ten months of graduate study at Johns Hopkins, he was affiliated with K-State from his freshman year until his death in 1950. During those years, he was a student, instructor, professor, chemist, head of the chemistry department, director of the Agricultural Experiment Station, dean of the Division of General Science, acting president (1914 and 1918), vice president, and college historian. He even built his own house at the southeast corner of the college grounds in 1894.

He published numerous scientific articles related to chemistry and agriculture; many were printed in the *Industrialist*, the college newspaper. A book by Willard published in 1894 on

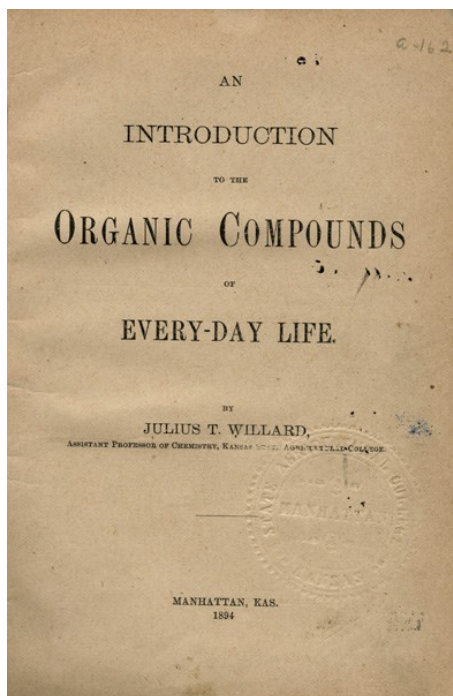


Willard
by Charles Morgan, 1935

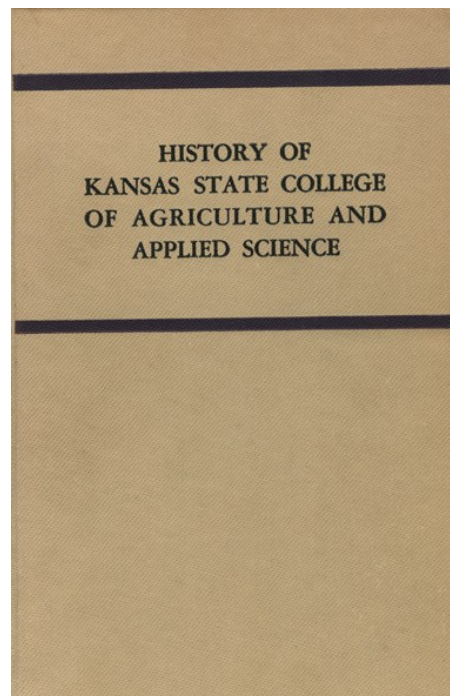


Willard Thesis, 1886

organic chemistry was adopted as the textbook for the college (*An Introduction to the Organic Compounds of Every-Day Life*). He was very active in the Kansas Academy of Science, serving as president in 1902, and other professional organizations.



Willard was released from his duties including those of vice president to become the college historian beginning January 1936. For many, this would have meant being put out to pasture but not in Willard's case! For years he had collected historical materials related to K-State as its unofficial historian, and written pieces about the history of the college. His new assignment allowed him the time to



write a history of the college which was published in 1940 (*History of Kansas State College of Agriculture and Applied Science*). The book is now part of the K-State Libraries digital collections.



Willard Hall cornerstone

Willard was revered by the students. For example, when Acacia fraternity established a chapter at K-State in 1913, Willard was the first to be initiated into the fraternity. In June 1936, Acacia presented a portrait of Willard to the college painted by David Overmyer, the artist who painted the murals in Farrell Library, now Hale. The portrait hangs in Willard Hall.

After a 1934 fire destroyed Denison Hall (which housed the chemistry and physics departments), construction of a new physical science building began in 1937. The next year the Board of Regents approved naming the building after Willard and a cornerstone was laid April 20, 1938.

Although Willard's academic and administrative accomplishments, including the significant role he played in the development of K-State in the first half of the twentieth century, are immeasurable, to the staff of the University Archives it is his contributions to preserving the history of K-State that remains his legacy. Willard's



Willard Hall 1939

passion for the history of the college allowed him to save so much of its history through his book and other means. He rescued countless archival records from departments and individuals on campus, wrote pieces on historical aspects of the college, many unpublished, and created a card index (approximately 100,000 slips filed alphabetically by person, place, and subject!) to the contents of the college newspapers, faculty and Board of Regents minutes, and other items. The index, and a variety of other sources Willard is responsible for creating and collecting, is available to everyone.

Not a day goes by that the staff of the department and/or researchers do not consult a resource attributable to Willard's efforts.



Willard in 1901

In July 1950, Julius Willard died at his desk in Anderson Hall delving into K-State's history. As the university prepares for its sesquicentennial celebration in 2013, a large portion of K-State's history for its first 100 years would be lost and impossible to recreate without the dedication of Julius Willard, after all, he was here for 71 of those years! It is easy to understand why Julius Willard can be considered Mr. K-State History!

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Sources. University Archives: Vertical File Photographs, Willard, Julius T. and Willard Hall; Vertical Files, Willard, Julius T. and Willard Hall; Willard's master's thesis and publications.

Celebrating Our First Black Graduates

33rd in the Keepsakes series, originally published February 23, 2012

This Keepsake features the lives and accomplishments of K-State's first black graduates, George Washington Owens, Class of 1899, and Minnie Howell, Class of 1901. Both endured difficult times but through determination and hard work accomplished what no other African Americans had done since K-State was established in 1863, obtain a degree from the college!



G.W. Owens, KSAC, 1899

Owens was born on a farm near Alma, Kansas in January 1875. Both of his parents were former slaves who came to Kansas, first to the Fort Scott area before settling in Wabaunsee County where they obtained 50 acres of free public land. He graduated from District School #3 in the Alma township and, on the advice of a high school teacher from Manhattan, decided to enroll at Kansas State Agricultural College.

Owens wrote in his autobiography, "So in Jan 1-1896 I went to Manhattan...and enrolled as a student. I found to my surprise that I was the only colored student enrolled in the college, and that they had never had a colored graduate so I resolved to be the first. I finally succeeded but suffered much hardship."

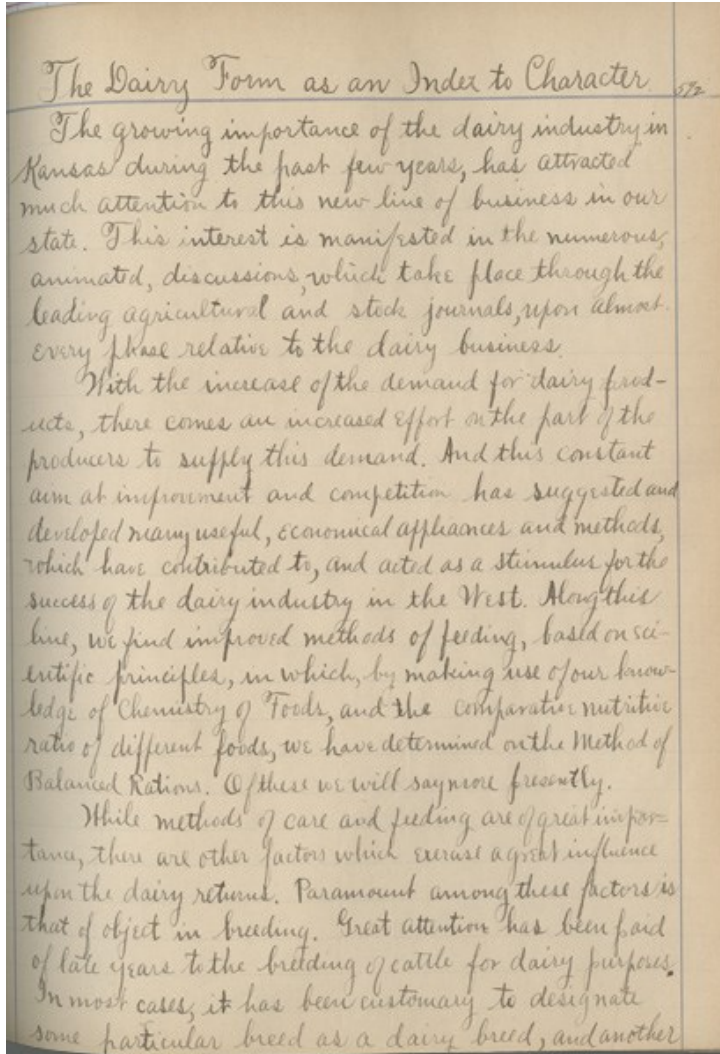
Owens was an accomplished student and by all accounts he was accepted as a peer and engaged in numerous college activities.

For example, as a member of the Webster Literary Society, Owens was one of seven students whose photographs and presentations at the organization's annual program in March 1899 were published in the college newspaper, the *Students' Herald*. The oration presented by Owens was entitled, "The Right to be Understood." Referring to the Civil War, Owens remarked, "While we regard the rebellion of the South a folly, we must not forget that the southern people also earnestly believed that they were right. A mutual understanding might have accomplished the emancipation reform peaceably." Although he struggled to work his way through college on the school's farm and as a janitor, Owens succeeded earning a B.S. degree in the "General Course" (June 1899), thus becoming the school's first Black graduate! His senior thesis was devoted to "The Dairy Farm as an Index to Character."



Owens's education and accomplishments did not go unnoticed. In the fall of 1899, he received a letter from Booker T. Washington, founder of Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, offering him a

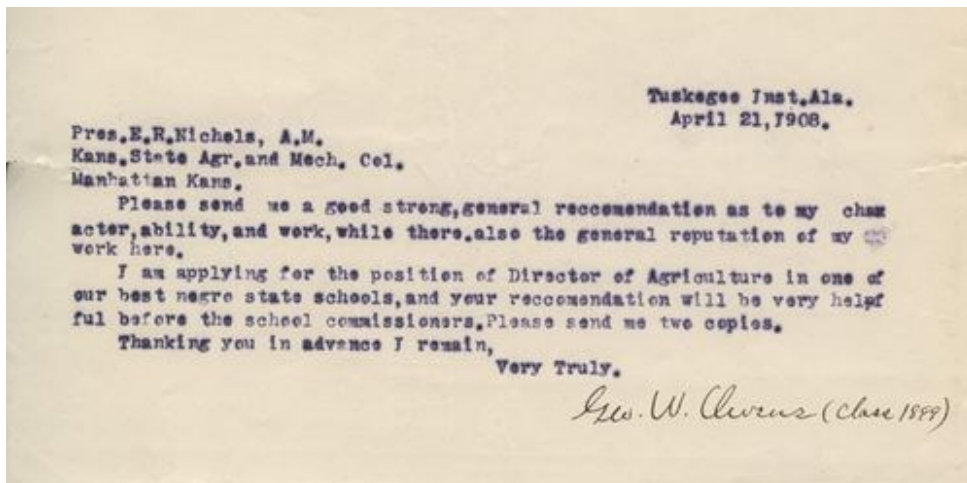
position under George Washington Carver, head of the agriculture department. He accepted and



head of the dairy herd was one of his responsibilities. While at Tuskegee he married Waddie L. Hill, a graduate of Clark University in Atlanta. His success at Tuskegee allowed Owens to obtain a position as head of the agricultural program at the Virginia Normal and Industrial Institute (now Virginia State University) in 1908. He used a reference from Earnest Nichols, president of K-State, to assist him with obtaining the appointment.

He also became a prominent leader in vocational agriculture in Virginia and the South. In recognition of his service, a new agricultural building at the school was named in his honor in 1932 Owens retired as chairman of the Department of Agriculture in 1945 before passing away five years later at the age of 75.

Owens senior thesis



G.W. Owens letter to E.R. Nichols, 1908

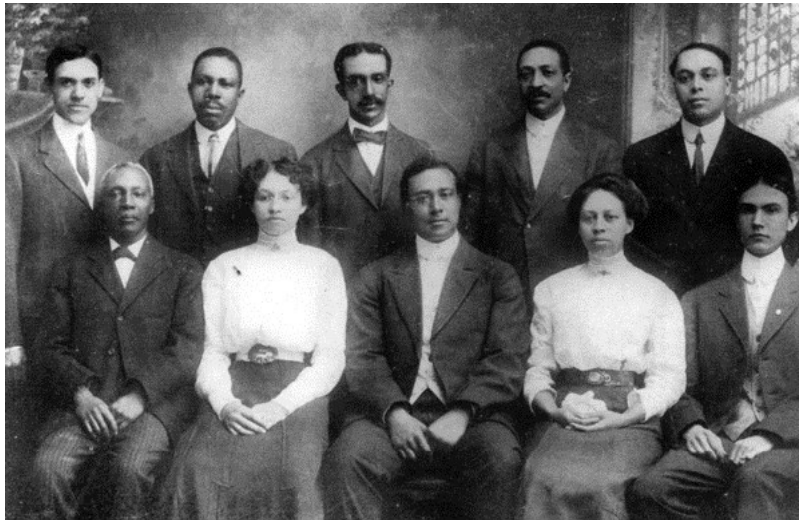
It is interesting that K-State's first Black female graduate, Minnie Howell, who obtained a domestic science degree in 1901, must have known Owens because their years in Manhattan overlapped for a period. She was born in 1878 in Tennessee and moved to Manhattan with her family in 1886. After graduating from the Manhattan school system in 1896, she entered K-State that September, the same year as Owens! While at the college her father died of typhoid fever and she also was away because of illness, thus delaying her graduation.

Howell was active at K-State. She was a member of the Ionian Literary Society and served as editor of its newsletter and corresponding secretary. On numerous occasions, articles in the *Students' Herald* noted piano solos and orations by Howell that were well attended. Her senior thesis was "Healthful Homes."

Howell pursued a career in education and from 1901-1905 she taught domestic science and English grammar at the Topeka Industrial Institute. She returned to Manhattan where she taught in the school system for one year before teaching domestic science and art at Sumner High School in Kansas City (KS) from 1906-1914.



**Minnie Howell, Sumner H.S.,
1911 (Spencer Library, Univ.
of Kansas)**



Minnie Howell and Sumner High School faculty, 1911

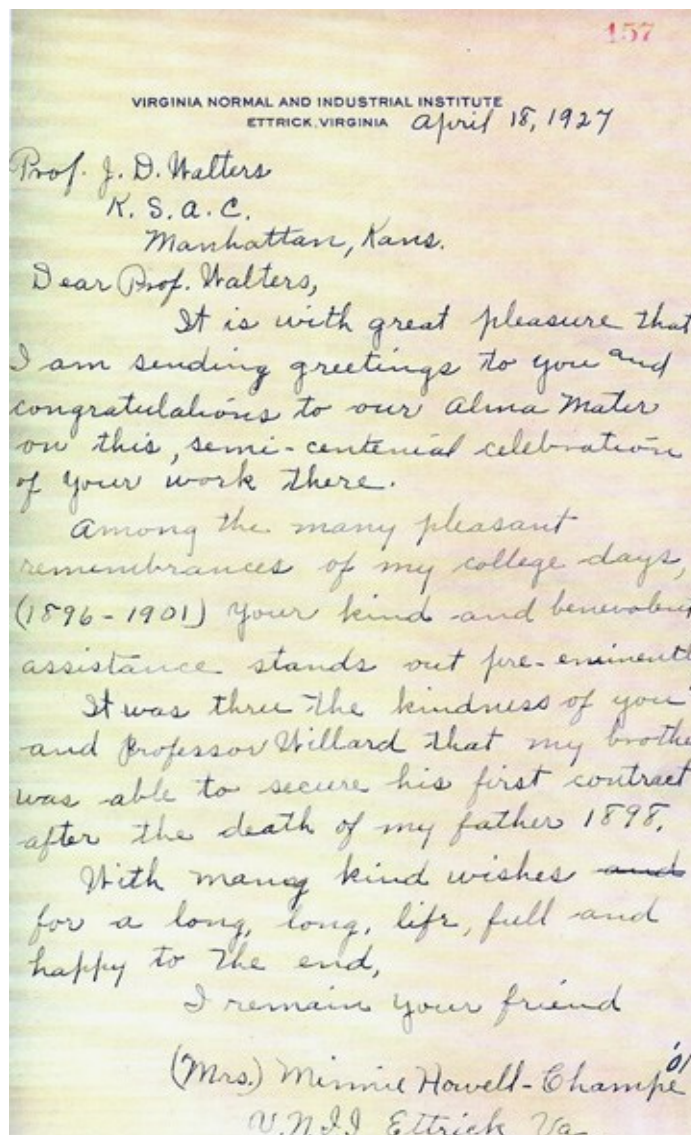
In 1912, Howell married E.J. Champe. They had one daughter, Francis.

It is interesting to note that from 1925-1928 she taught high school home economics on the campus of Virginia State College where Owens was employed. Their paths crossed again making one speculate if they were acquaintances once more? During this period, Howell sent J.D. Walters,

professor in industrial art and design, a letter thanking him for all the support he gave her and her brother while she was at the college.

From 1931-1938, Howell served as head of the Home Economics Department at Southern University, Negro A&M in Louisiana. By January 1946 she was directing the Douglas Community Center in Manhattan. She was also a member of the Douglas USO board during World War II and the League of Women Voters, as well as other organizations.

Don Slater, long-time resident of Manhattan, remembers Howell, "I called her the 'Cookie Lady' because we would walk by her home as a kid and she would be sitting on the front porch of her home and she'd give us kids cookies. She was frail, but had a sharp wit." Howell died in 1948 at age 70 after a long illness and was buried in Sunset Cemetery, Manhattan.



Minnie Howell to J.D. Walters, 1927



**How K-State looked when Owens & Howell enrolled;
view from the southeast where Aggieville is now located**

These abbreviated accounts of Owens and Howell, K-State's first Black graduates, illustrate how they distinguished themselves as K-Staters. During Black History Month, we celebrate the accomplishments of two of K-State's most outstanding alumni, George Washington Owens and Minnie Howell Champe!

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University Archives sources: [George Washington Owens Papers](#); Ernest Nichols Papers; Photograph Collection; on-line exhibit "Minnie Howell"; Vertical File "Champe, Minnie Howell" contains extensive documentation on Howell compiled by staff members Pat Patton and Cindy Von Elling; Lindemuth, Tim. "Stumbling onto History" [Minnie Howell]. K-Stater (May 2001), p. 58; "The Black Graduate" [G.W. Owens]. K-Stater (June 1977), pp. 2-4; K-State senior theses collection, 1901.

K-State's Sesquicentennial; Celebrating 150 Years!

34th in the Keepsakes series, originally published February 12, 2013



Bluemont Central College



**KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY**

February 16, 2013 marks the beginning of K-State's Sesquicentennial! On that date in 1863, the Kansas legislature accepted an offer from the Bluemont Central College Association to transfer its property and assets to the state and become a college under the provisions of the Morrill Act, agreed to by the state only 13 days earlier. The three story college building, constructed of native limestone in 1859, stood at the northwest corner of present day Claflin Rd. and College Ave. On March 3, 1863, the new institution was designated as Kansas State Agricultural College. It is reported that 52 students equally divided between male and female started classes on September 2 of that year under the instruction of four faculty; Joseph Denison, president and professor of mental and moral science and ancient languages; J. G. Schnebly, professor of mathematics and natural science; Belle M. Haines, preparatory department; and Mrs. Eliza C. Beckwith, music on melodeon and piano. Although the original charter for the college called for four departments--science and literature, agriculture, mechanic arts, and military tactics--it is not clear to what extent classes from the four areas were offered the first few years. After the original 155 acres of land were acquired where K-State's main campus is now located, classes were transferred to a renovated stone barn on the property in 1875.



Poyntz Avenue looking east 1863

From this humble beginning as the first public institution of higher learning in Kansas, K-State has evolved into a comprehensive land grant university. Under the leadership of Kirk Schulz, K-State's 13th president, the goal of becoming a top 50 public research university in the U.S. by the year 2025 has been established.



Anderson Hall, early 1880s

Anthony R. Crawford

Last fall K-State announced a record enrollment of 24,378 undergraduate and graduate students at campuses in Manhattan, Salina, and Olathe, along with extensive distant education programs. With many academic programs nationally ranked in their disciplines, faculty and students winning numerous awards each year, and K-State embarking on landmark initiatives such as the National Bio and Agri-Defense Facility, the university is well on its way to achieving top 50 status.

The first college catalog in 1863-1864 concluded, "This is the first Institution the State has endowed and put in operation and it is destined to become an instrument of great profit to the Country." After 150 years, and generations of success, K-Staters and Kansans can celebrate and proudly hail, HAPPY BIRTHDAY, KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY!



Color aerial view of campus courtesy Photographic Services, K-State Communications and Marketing. Original painting of Bluemont Central College and photographs of early Manhattan and Anderson Hall, University Archives.

About the Author

Anthony R. Crawford was employed as the university archivist of Kansas State University in 1983. After an expansion of the Libraries' Richard L.D. and Marjorie J. Morse Department of Special Collections in 2011, he assumed the position of curator of manuscripts. He has been a professional archivist since 1973 when he obtained his MLS from the University of Oklahoma. Crawford taught high school history upon earning a BS degree in education from Oklahoma State University in 1967. Among his publications is the Posters of World War I and World War II in the George C. Marshall Research Foundation (editor), University Press of Virginia. He holds the academic rank of associate professor and is a charter member of the Academy of Certified Archivists.